

**MARVEL**  
**COMICS**







\$3.95 US  
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OCT

MARVEL  
COMICS

X-MEN



STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA!

NEAR-EARTH SPACE, ON THE SHADOW SIDE OF THE TERMINATOR, RACING FROM DAY TO NIGHT...

WE'RE HIT!

A WARNING SHOT, JUST TO LET US KNOW THEY MEAN BUSINESS.

WE GET THE BLOODY MESSAGE! SO LET'S DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, OKAY?!

WHERE'S ASTEROID M?

OUR ENTIRE PLAN WAS BASED ON FINDING THAT ORBITING HUNK OF ROCK--

--YOU SWORE YOUR PRECIOUS SENSORS COULD DO THE JOB--

--SO WHERE THE DEVIL IS IT?!!

I DON'T KNOW!

ALL I'M SCANNING IS EMPTY SPACE!

ABSOLUTELY SPECTACULAR!

I JUST NAILED ONE OF THE PURSUIT SHIPS.

KILL THE OTHER TWO... THEN WE'LL CHEER.

CHEYENNE COMMAND FROM STRIKE-EAGLE LEADER DELGADO

...ONE CRAFT LOST...

...FUGITIVES REFUSING TO ANSWER HAILS, MUCH LESS SURRENDER.

REQUESTING RELEASE TO RETURN FIRE.

STUFF PERMISSION, HARRY

JUST FRY THE SWINE.

A HUNDRED-FIFTY MILES ABOVE MOTHER RUSSIA, NANCE?

REAL EASY WAY TO START A WORLD WAR.

SKIPPER, I'M RECORDING MASSIVE SPIKES, ALL ACROSS THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM! LOSING COHERENCE ON ALL INTERNAL ELECTRONICS!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING UP AHEAD!

THAT FLASH OF LIGHT!





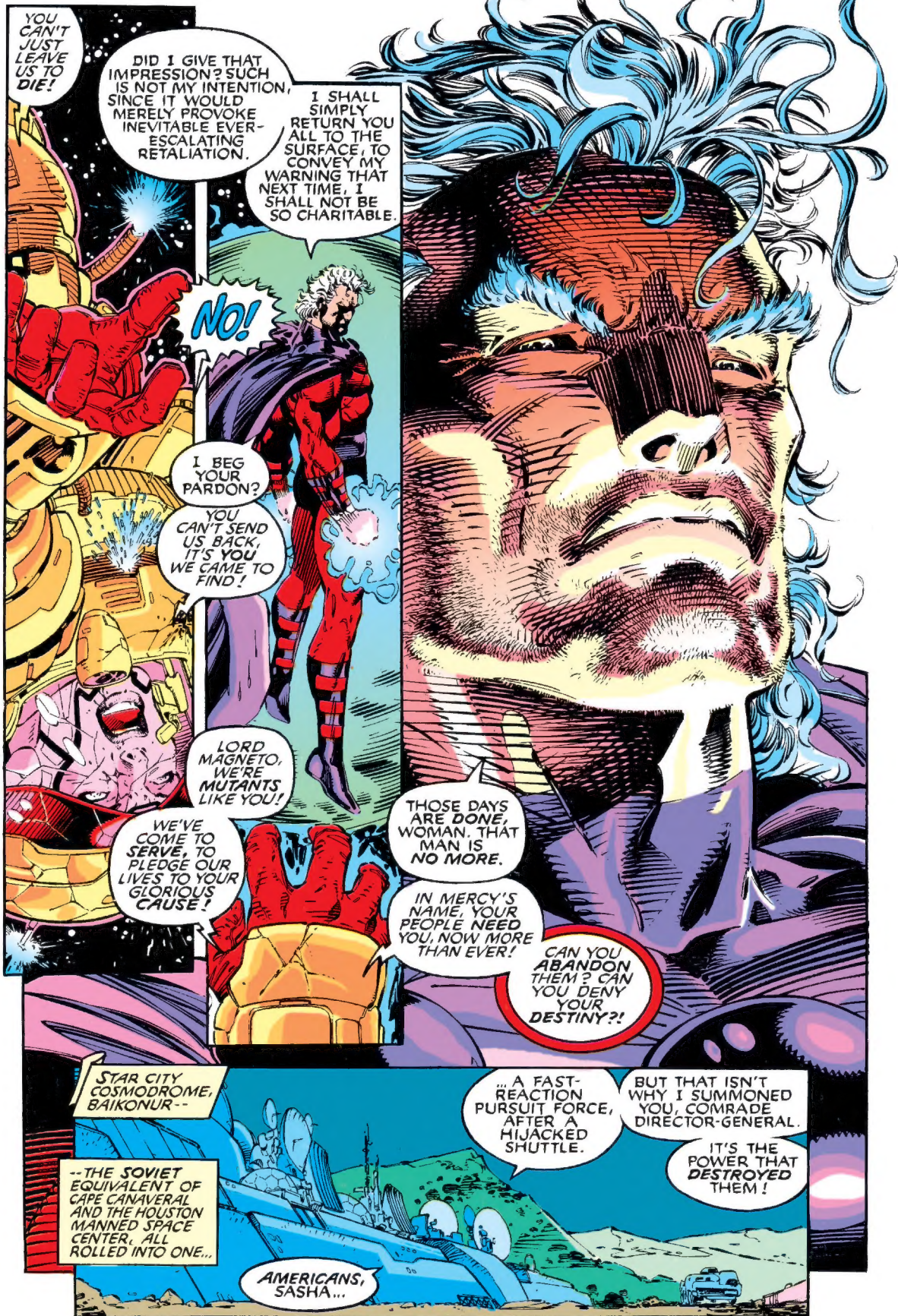
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X-MEN:

# RUBICON

By CHRIS CLAREMONT and JIM LEE  
WRITER • CO-PLOTTERS • PENCILER





YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE US TO DIE!

DID I GIVE THAT IMPRESSION? SUCH IS NOT MY INTENTION, SINCE IT WOULD MERELY PROVOKE INEVITABLE EVER-ESCALATING RETALIATION.

I SHALL SIMPLY RETURN YOU ALL TO THE SURFACE, TO CONVEY MY WARNING THAT NEXT TIME, I SHALL NOT BE SO CHARITABLE.

No!

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

YOU CAN'T SEND US BACK, IT'S YOU WE CAME TO FIND!

LORD MAGNETO, WE'RE MUTANTS LIKE YOU!

WE'VE COME TO SERVE, TO PLEDGE OUR LIVES TO YOUR GLORIOUS CAUSE!

THOSE DAYS ARE DONE, WOMAN. THAT MAN IS NO MORE.

IN MERCY'S NAME, YOUR PEOPLE NEED YOU, NOW MORE THAN EVER!

CAN YOU ABANDON THEM? CAN YOU DENY YOUR DESTINY?!

STAR CITY COSMODROME, BAIKONUR--

--THE SOVIET EQUIVALENT OF CAPE CANAVERAL AND THE HOUSTON MANNED SPACE CENTER, ALL ROLLED INTO ONE...

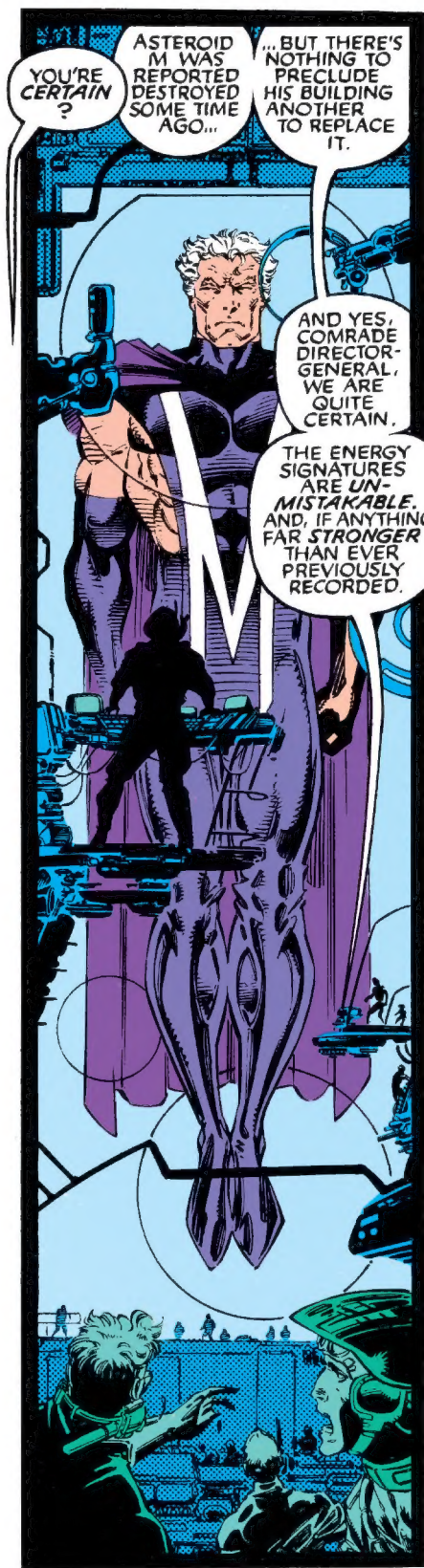
... A FAST-REACTION PURSUIT FORCE, AFTER A HIJACKED SHUTTLE.

BUT THAT ISN'T WHY I SUMMONED YOU, COMRADE DIRECTOR-GENERAL.

IT'S THE POWER THAT DESTROYED THEM!

AMERICANS, SASHA...





YOU'RE CERTAIN?

ASTEROID M WAS REPORTED DESTROYED SOME TIME AGO...

...BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO PRECLUDE HIS BUILDING ANOTHER TO REPLACE IT.

AND YES, COMRADE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN.

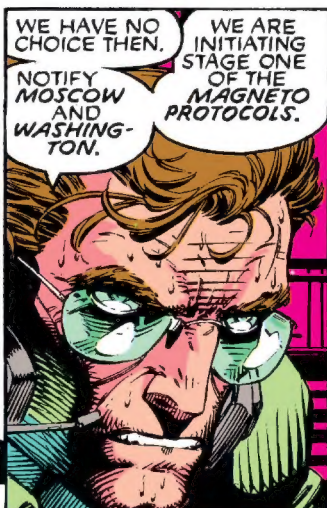
THE ENERGY SIGNATURES ARE UNMISTAKABLE. AND, IF ANYTHING, FAR STRONGER THAN EVER PREVIOUSLY RECORDED.



IT IS MAGNETO.

AND, IMPOSSIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, HE IS MAINTAINING THAT ACCURSED ROCK IN A SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT...

...TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY KILOMETERS ABOVE OUR HEADS.



WE HAVE NO CHOICE THEN. NOTIFY MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON.

WE ARE INITIATING STAGE ONE OF THE MAGNETO PROTOCOLS.



A PRUDENT MOVE, IN MY ESTIMATION, COLONEL FURY.

WERE ASTEROID M OVER OUR HEADS, I'D BE INCLINED TO DO THE SAME.

ESPECIALLY SINCE THOSE WERE AMERICAN SHUTTLES HE DESTROYED.



IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING, IN FACT, THAT THE TERRORISTS WHO HIJACKED OUR VEHICLE...

...LOOK TO HIM AS THEIR INSPIRATION.

SUPPOSE HE MAKES THEIR CAUSE HIS OWN?

IF THE SOVIETS ACT LIKE HOTHEADS, MISTER PRESIDENT...

...THEY COULD MAKE THINGS WORSE.



YOU HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE?



FORTY MILES NORTH OF NEW YORK CITY, JUST SHY OF THE CONNECTICUT BORDER, A COUPLE OF MILES DOWN GRAYMALKIN LANE FROM THE TOWN OF SALEM CENTER...

...ON THE GROUNDS OF AN ESTATE THAT PREDATES THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR (WHEN THIS COULD STILL BE CALLED "INDIAN COUNTRY")...

...STANDS PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

A VERY SPECIAL SCHOOL.

FOR VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE.

BETTER KNOWN TO THE WORLD AT LARGE AS THE X-MEN.

PART OF WHAT MAKES THEM SPECIAL IS THAT THEY'RE MUTANTS...

...BORN WITH PARANORMAL ABILITIES THAT SET THEM APART FROM THE GENERAL RUN OF HUMANITY.

AND PART IS WHAT THEY CHOOSE TO DO WITH THOSE POWERS.

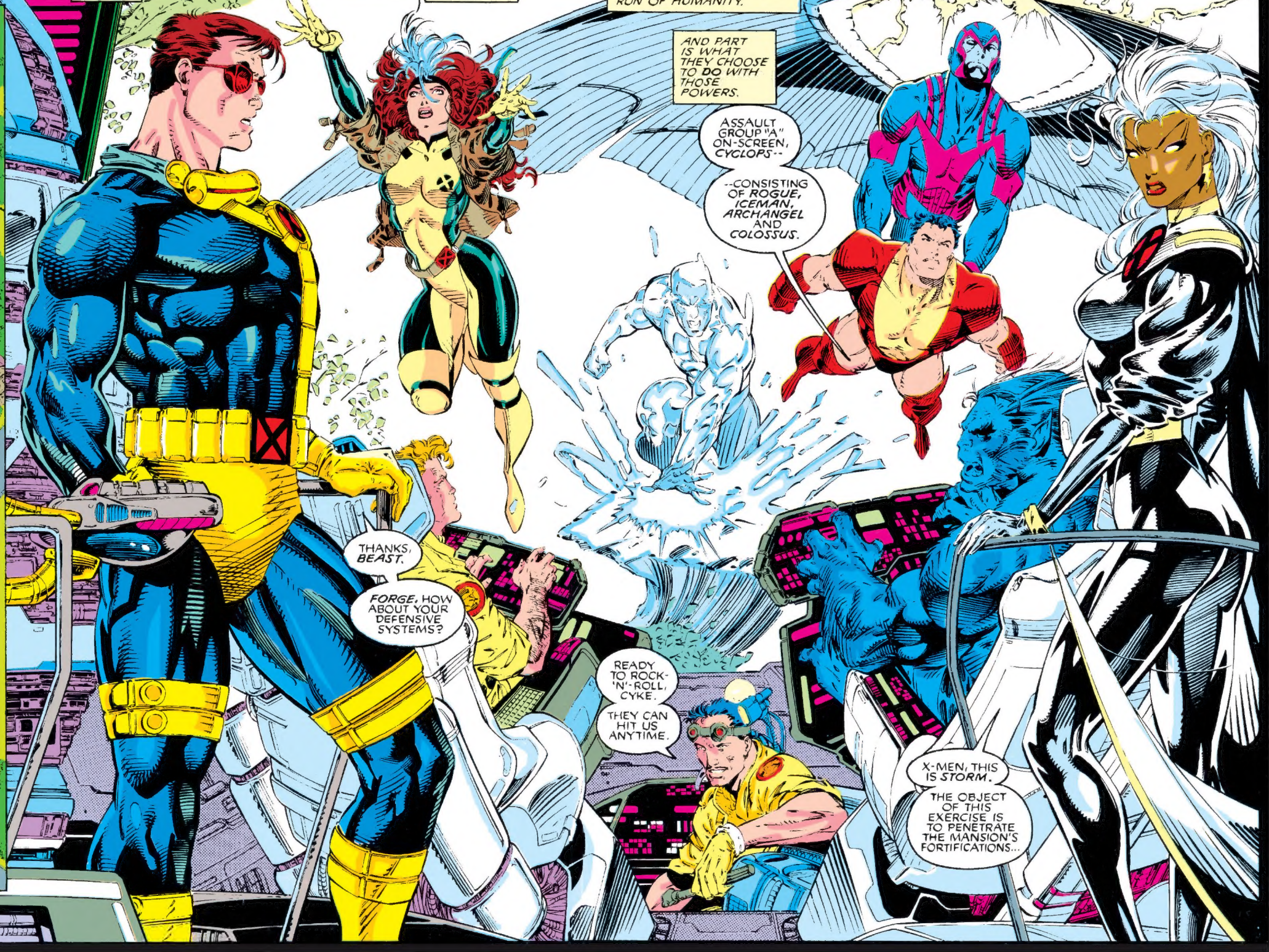
ASSAULT GROUP "A" ON-SCREEN, CYCLOPS--  
--CONSISTING OF ROGUE, ICEMAN, ARCHANGEL AND COLOSSUS.

THANKS, BEAST.

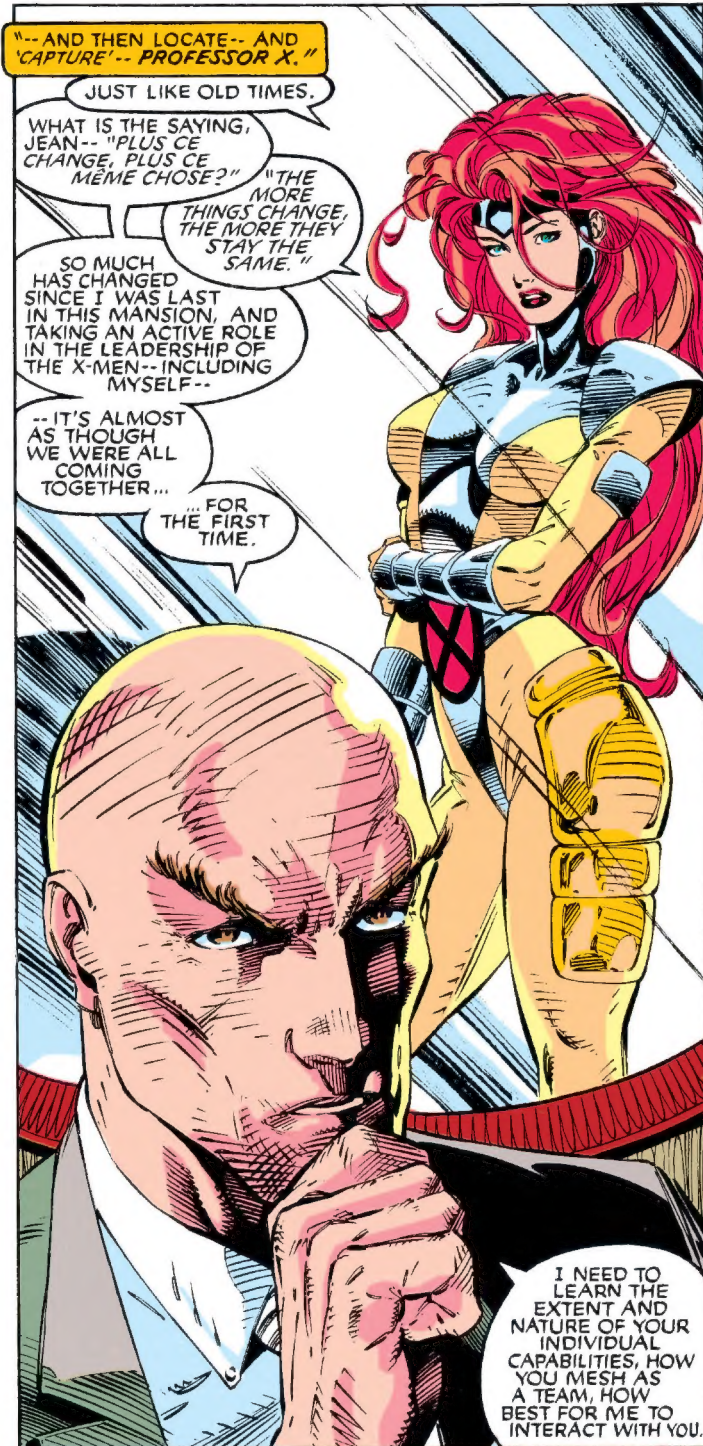
FORGE, HOW ABOUT YOUR DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS?

READY TO ROCK-'N'-ROLL, CYKE.  
THEY CAN HIT US ANYTIME.

X-MEN, THIS IS STORM.  
THE OBJECT OF THIS EXERCISE IS TO PENETRATE THE MANSION'S FORTIFICATIONS...







"-- AND THEN LOCATE-- AND 'CAPTURE'-- PROFESSOR X."

JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.

WHAT IS THE SAYING, JEAN-- "PLUS CE CHANGE, PLUS CE MÊME CHOSE?"

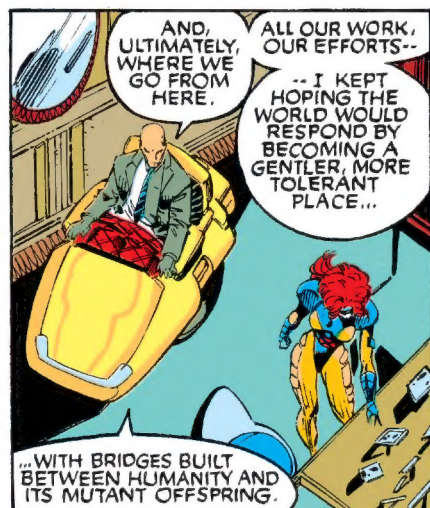
"THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME."

SO MUCH HAS CHANGED SINCE I WAS LAST IN THIS MANSION, AND TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE X-MEN--INCLUDING MYSELF--

--IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH WE WERE ALL COMING TOGETHER...

...FOR THE FIRST TIME.

I NEED TO LEARN THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITIES, HOW YOU MESH AS A TEAM, HOW BEST FOR ME TO INTERACT WITH YOU.



AND, ULTIMATELY, WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

ALL OUR WORK, OUR EFFORTS--

-- I KEPT HOPING THE WORLD WOULD RESPOND BY BECOMING A GENTLER, MORE TOLERANT PLACE...

...WITH BRIDGES BUILT BETWEEN HUMANITY AND ITS MUTANT OFFSPRING.

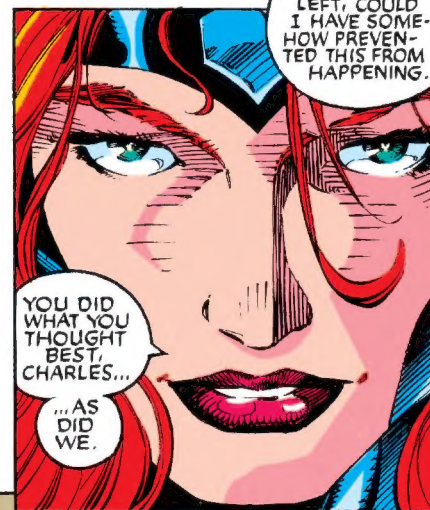


INSTEAD, WE SEEM TO BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS, NOW MORE THAN EVER.

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US SHARPENED TO A KILLING EDGE.

WITH SOME OF THE CHILDREN ENTRUSTED TO MY CARE BURIED.

I KEEP WONDERING, HAD I NEVER LEFT, COULD I HAVE SOMEHOW PREVENTED THIS FROM HAPPENING.



YOU DID WHAT YOU THOUGHT BEST, CHARLES...

...AS DID WE.



NOW, WE PICK UP THE PIECES.

GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY.

I HAVE BEEN AWAY SO LONG, JEAN.

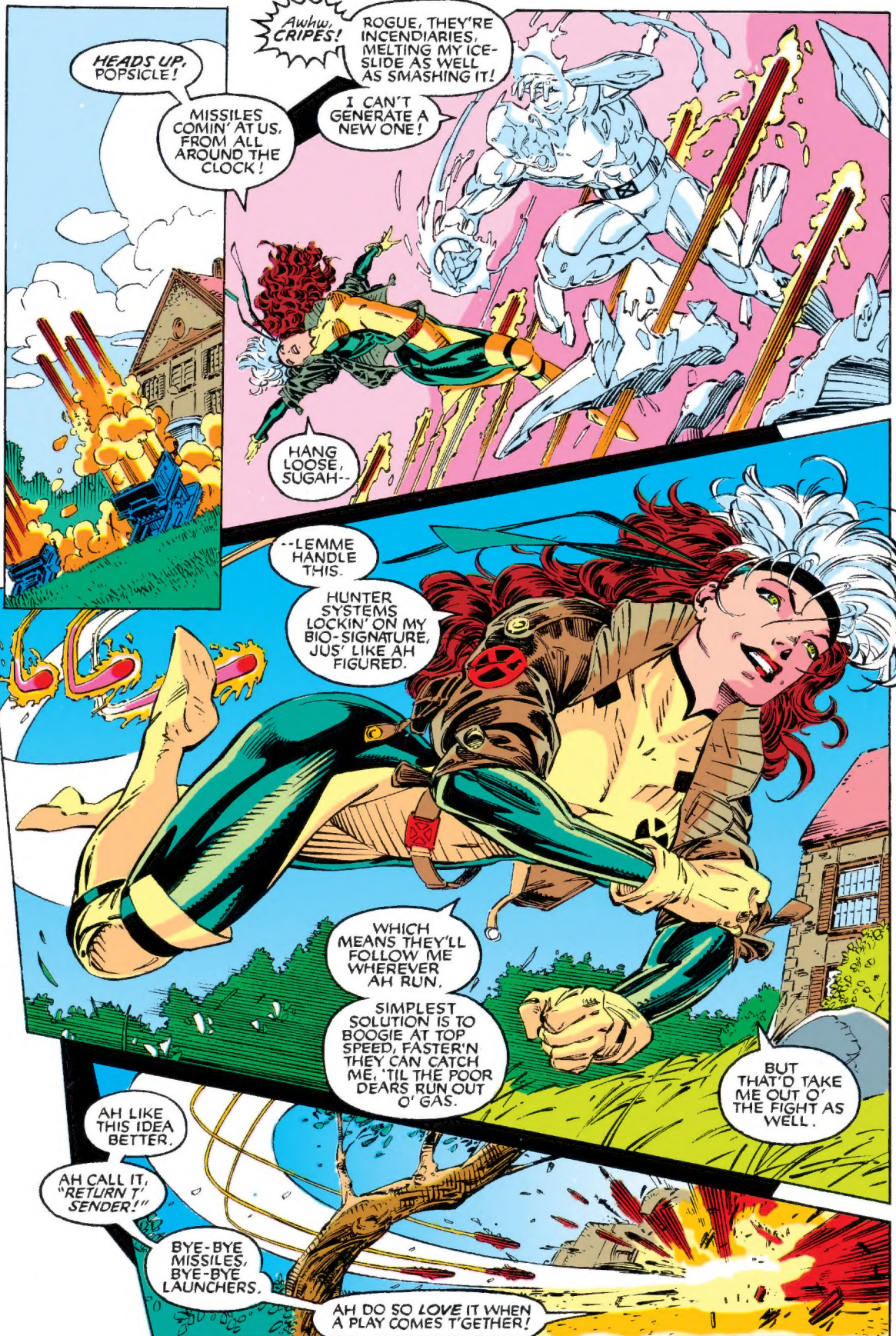
I LOOK AT THE WORLD, AND CANNOT HELP WONDERING...

IF IT DIDN'T...

...WE WOULDN'T BE HERE.

...IF MY DREAM HAS ANY VALIDITY ANYMORE.





HEADS UP,  
POPSICLE!

MISSILES  
COMIN' AT US.  
FROM ALL  
AROUND THE  
CLOCK!

Awww,  
CRIPES!

ROGUE, THEY'RE  
INCENDIARIES,  
MELTING MY ICE-  
SLIDE AS WELL  
AS SMASHING IT!

I CAN'T  
GENERATE A  
NEW ONE!

HANG  
LOOSE,  
SUGAH--

--LEMMIE  
HANDLE  
THIS.

HUNTER  
SYSTEMS  
LOCKIN' ON MY  
BIO-SIGNATURE,  
JUS' LIKE AH  
FIGURED.

WHICH  
MEANS THEY'LL  
FOLLOW ME  
WHEREVER  
AH RUN.

SIMPLEST  
SOLUTION IS TO  
BOOGIE AT TOP  
SPEED, FASTER'N  
THEY CAN CATCH  
ME. 'TIL THE POOR  
DEARS RUN OUT  
O' GAS.

AH LIKE  
THIS IDEA  
BETTER.

AH CALL IT,  
"RETURN T'  
SENDER!"

BYE-BYE  
MISSILES,  
BYE-BYE  
LAUNCHERS.

AH DO SO LOVE IT WHEN  
A PLAY COMES T'GETHER!

BUT  
THAT'D TAKE  
ME OUT O'  
THE FIGHT AS  
WELL.



ROGUE'S  
CLEARED  
US A PATH,  
COLOSSUS.

TIME TO  
DELIVER THE  
PAY-OFF!

HAVE NO FEAR,  
ARCHANGEL.

I WILL  
DO WHAT  
MUST BE  
DONE.

FOR WHAT  
IT'S WORTH,  
O FEARLESS  
LEADER--

--GIVEN  
ARCH-  
ANGEL'S  
SPEED AND  
COLOSSUS'  
MASS--

"--OUR ARMORED RUSSIAN  
COMRADE WOULD MAKE A  
FAIRLY IMPRESSIVE  
WRECKING BALL."

"PROBABLY  
DEMOLISH  
THE MANSION,  
ALL BY  
HIMSELF."

"THAT'S A  
PHYSICAL  
POWER, HANK."

"HOW'S THAT  
GOING TO  
HELP HIM..."

"...AGAINST  
JEAN'S PSYCHIC--  
TELEPATHIC--  
ATTACK?"









SO DON'T  
JUST  
STAND  
THERE  
LOOKIN'  
PRETTY,  
CAJUN...

...ACE THESE  
SUCKERS!

I FEAR, MY  
FRIEND...

...YOUR  
ADMONITION  
IS A WASTE  
OF BREATH.

AWFULLY CONSIDER-  
ATE OF  
CYCLOPS,  
DON'T YOU  
THINK...

...TO FACE US  
WITH OPPOSITION  
THAT EVEN MY  
PHYSICAL STRENGTH  
IS CAPABLE OF  
DISABLING.

MAN'S  
ALL HEART,  
BETTS.

AS MUCH  
AS GAMBIT  
IS BRASS.

WE'RE S'POSED  
T' BE WORKIN'  
T'GETHER, AS A  
TEAM!

BUT WHAT  
THE HECK...

...MAN  
WANTS  
TO PLAY  
LONE-  
WOLF...

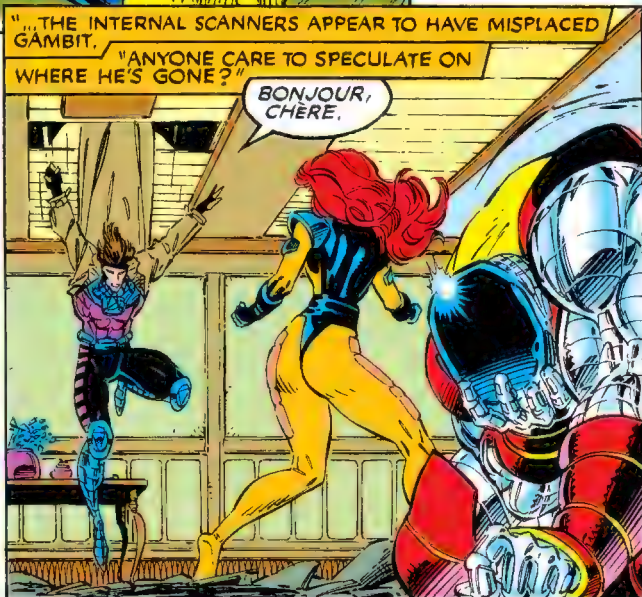


"...HE CAN TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES."

ROGUE EVADED THE  
FIRST WAVE OF MISSILES,  
O FEARLESS, AND TOOK  
OUT THEIR LAUNCHERS...

...BUT NOT  
THE SECOND.  
SHE'S DOWN  
AND OUT.

POSITIVE  
TRACK STILL ON  
WOLVERINE AND  
PSYLOCKE. HOWEVER...



"...THE INTERNAL SCANNERS APPEAR TO HAVE MISPLACED  
GAMBIT."

"ANYONE CARE TO SPECULATE ON  
WHERE HE'S GONE?"

BONJOUR,  
CHERE.



WITH A SPEED THAT  
DEFIES DESCRIPTION,  
AND A SMILE GUARAN-  
TEED TO MELT THE  
FIERCEST HEART...

...THE ACADIAN DRAWS  
A PLAYING CARD FROM  
THE DECK HE ALWAYS  
CARRIES.

IN ONE SMOOTH  
MOVEMENT, HE  
CHARGES IT WITH  
KINETIC ENERGY  
(HIS MUTANT  
POWER) AND  
LETS IT FLY.

ON IMPACT, THE  
WALL BEHIND  
JEAN DETONATES  
WITH THE FORCE  
OF A SMALL BOMB.

LA TOURNEMENT  
EST FINIT, CHERE.

I  
WIN.

TIME TO  
CLAIM MY  
PRIZE--

--Eh!?!?

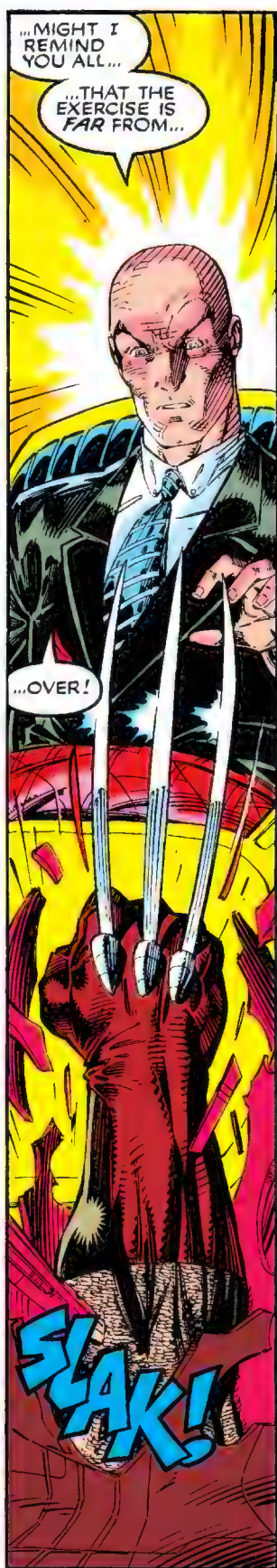
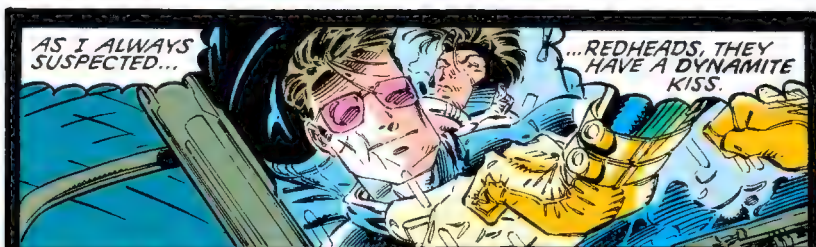
BANG!

UNDER  
THE RULES,  
GAMBIT...

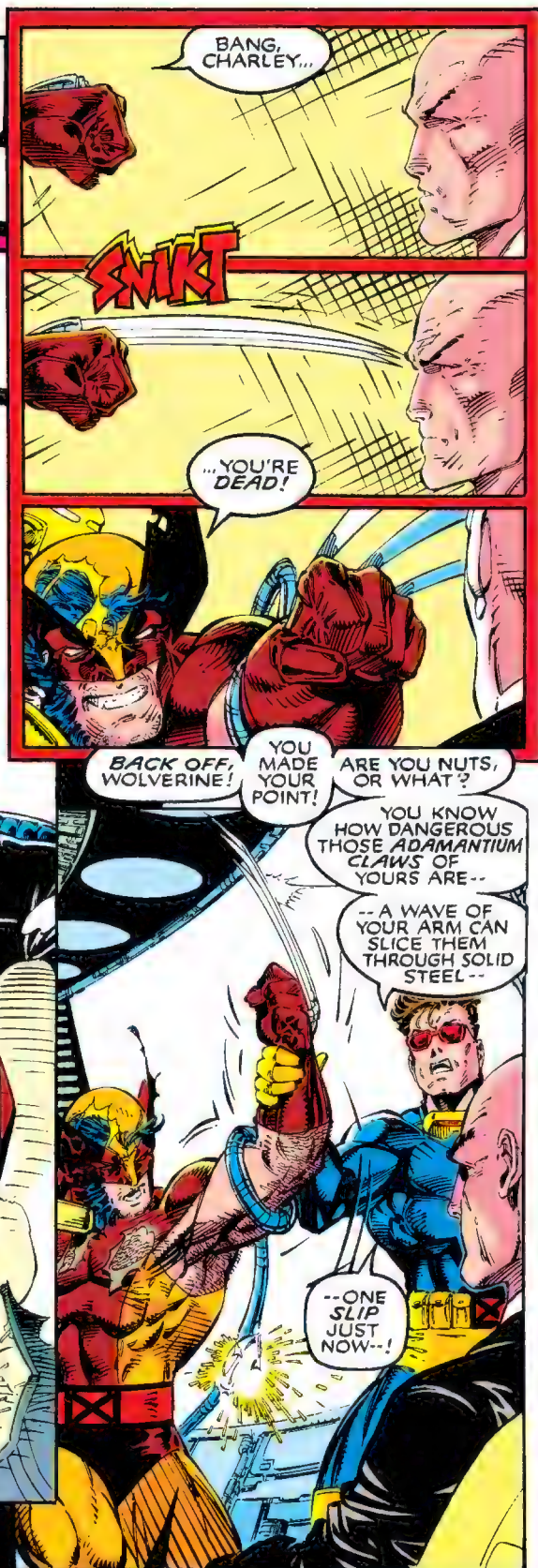
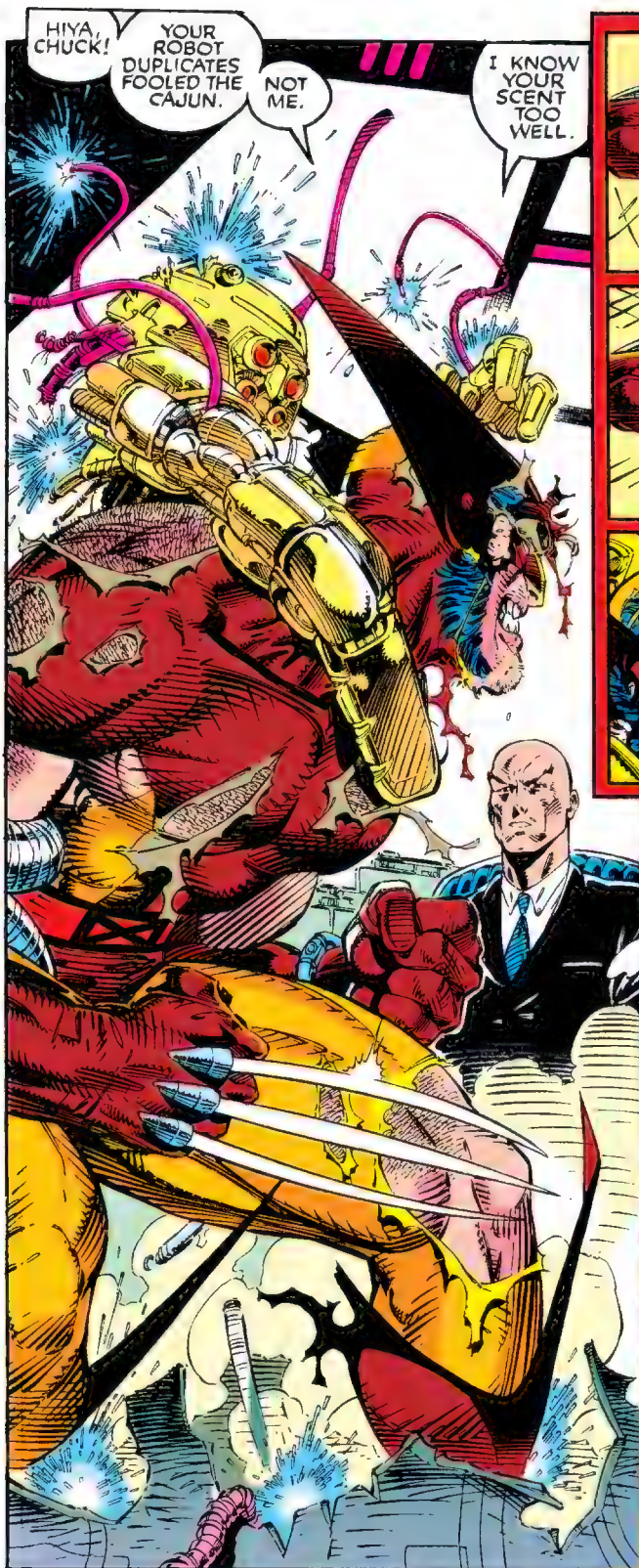
I KNOW,  
CYCLOPS.

JE SUIT MORT--  
I AM NOW DEAD.

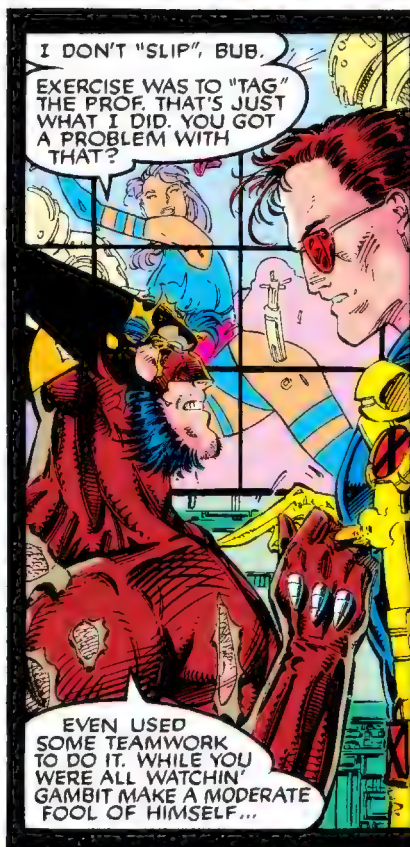












I DON'T "SLIP", BUB.

EXERCISE WAS TO "TAG" THE PROF. THAT'S JUST WHAT I DID. YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

EVEN USED SOME TEAMWORK TO DO IT. WHILE YOU WERE ALL WATCHIN' GAMBIT MAKE A MODERATE FOOL OF HIMSELF...

...PSYLOCKE WAS ABLE TO USE HER PSI-POWERS TO MASK ME FROM JEAN'S...

...LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO DO THE JOB.

MAN, I USED TO THINK THE ORIGINAL DANGER ROOM WAS IMPRESSIVE.

NO COMPARISON. WINGS, THIS IS STATE OF THE ART.

IT'LL REPLICATE ANY ENVIRONMENT AND SITUATION WE CAN IMAGINE.

IN A LOT OF WAYS, AN ILLUSION MORE REAL THAN LIFE ITSELF.

ME, I WOULDN'T MIND SOME REAL LIFE FOR A CHANGE. I MEAN, WE'VE BEEN BUSTING OUR BUTTS FOR DAYS!

"WHEN'S IT GOING TO END?"

WHEN WE GET IT RIGHT, ICEMAN.

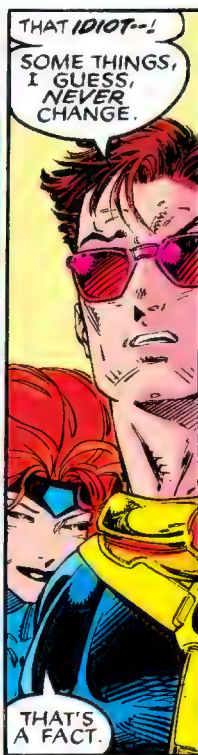
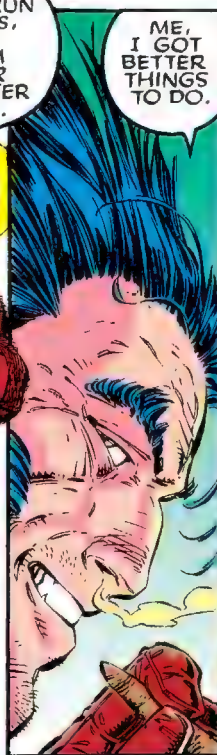
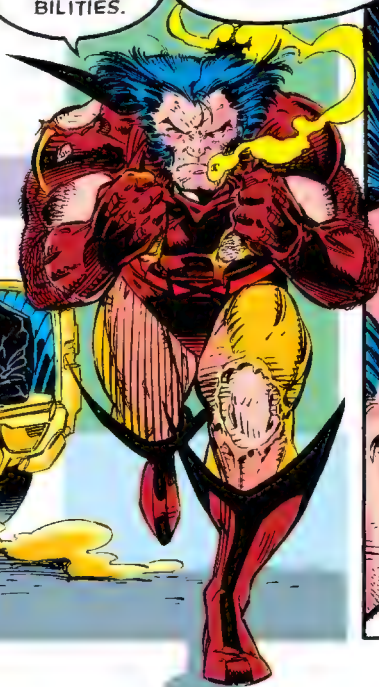
THE WORLD'S CHANGED, PEOPLE. THE STAKES ARE HIGHER, THE DANGERS GREATER. WE HAVE TO BE EQUAL TO THEM.

SAVE THE SPEECH, SUMMERS. WE'RE NONE OF US KIDS, WE KNOW OUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

YOU WANT TO RUN MORE SCENARIOS, CALL UP MY DANGER ROOM DOPPELGÄNGER FROM THE MASTER COMPUTER FILE.

ME, I GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO.

THAT IDIOT--! SOME THINGS, I GUESS, NEVER CHANGE.



THAT'S A FACT.



LATER...

...ASTEROID M IS STILL CLOAKED BUT WE THINK IT'S STILL HOLDING ORBIT OVER THE EURASIAN HEMISPHERE.

SOVIETS AIN'T AT ALL HAPPY ABOUT THAT. THEY'VE PLEDGED NOT TO ACT UNLESS PROVOKED...

...BUT THEY'RE ON A HAIR-TRIGGER THRESHOLD.

WHY?

WHAT'S HE DONE?!

A FIGHT STARTED ON HIS DOORSTEP, HE PUT A STOP TO IT. FAR AS ANYONE KNOWS, ALL THE SURVIVORS ARE PRETTY MUCH OKAY.

WAY YOU TALK, NICHOLAS, FOLKS EXPECT HIM TO START NUKIN' MAMA RUSSIA ANY MOMENT.

THERE'S PRECEDENT FOR THEIR CONCERN, ROGUE.

AND FOR GIVING HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, SCOTT. REMEMBER, HE WAS OUR ALLY.

NO FOOLIN'?. AN' THERE, I THOUGHT ALL THIS TIME MAGNETO WAS A MAN.

WE'VE ALL GOT SHADOWS IN OUR PAST...

THE ONE INDISPUTABLE REALITY, WOLVERINE, IS THE **POWER** MAGNETO POSSESSES. WHETHER USED FOR GOOD OR ILL, IT MUST BE RESPECTED.

AND WHILE I HOPE FERVENTLY FOR THE ONE...

...WE MUST BE FULLY PREPARED TO CONFRONT THE OTHER.

AND BEFORE THAT, STORM, THE X-MEN'S OLDEST, DEADLIEST FOE. LEOPARDS DON'T CHANGE THEIR SPOTS.

...WE'VE ALL BEEN BRANDED OUTLAWS.

I ACCEPT YOUR PROPOSAL, CYCLOPS, TO SPLIT THE X-MEN INTO TWO STRIKE TEAMS.

THAT WILL ALLOW US A GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN OUR RESPONSE TO ANY GIVEN SITUATION.

IN THE MEANWHILE, COLONEL FURY, WE WILL SEARCH OUR FILES FOR ANY DATA ON MAGNETO THAT MIGHT PROVE HELPFUL. SHOULD YOU NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE...

I KNOW THE NUMBER.

KEEP OUR FINGERS CROSSED...



"...MAYBE  
I WON'T  
NEED TO  
USE IT."

WHERE THE  
DEVIL--?!

ASTEROID M, DEKE,  
HAS TO BE!

WHEN MAGNETO  
SMASHED OUR  
SHUTTLE, HE MUST'VE  
BROUGHT US ABOARD!

A MORE  
GENEROUS--  
FOOLISH  
GESTURE--

...THAN ANY  
OF **UPROCK!**

THOSE WERE GOOD  
PEOPLE YOU KILLED  
ON MY WINGSHIP,  
MUTIE...

...AND GOOD  
ONES YOU KILLED  
ON THE GROUND  
WHEN YOU STOLE  
THAT SHUTTLE.

WHATEVER  
IT TAKES, I'LL  
SEE YOU PAY  
FOR THAT!

UNLIKELY,  
FLATSCAN,  
ONCE I--

--MY  
POWER?!

NOTHING'S  
HAPPENING?!?

NOW AIN'T THAT  
A CRYIN' SHAME!

I GOT  
HER,  
HARRY!

BIG MAN MUST'VE  
ESTABLISHED AN  
INHIBITOR FIELD,  
TO NEUTRALIZE ANY  
SUPER-BEINGS OR  
MUTANTS WHO  
COME CALLING.

PROBABLY  
DOES THE  
SAME TO  
STANDARD  
COMBAT  
ARMOR.

UNFORTUNATELY,  
OUR SUITS WERE  
DESIGNED WITH  
PRECISELY THAT  
LIKELIHOOD  
IN MIND.

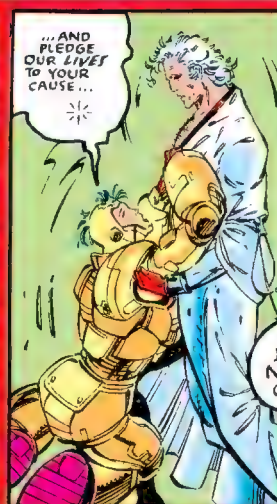
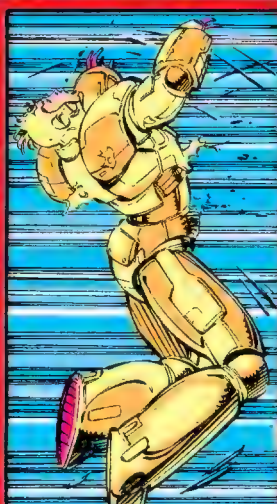
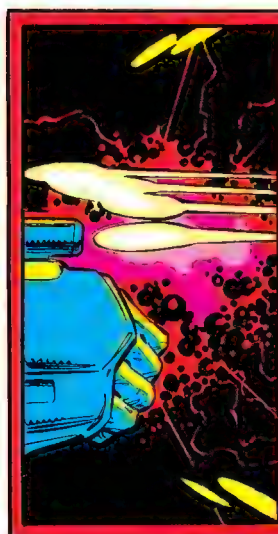
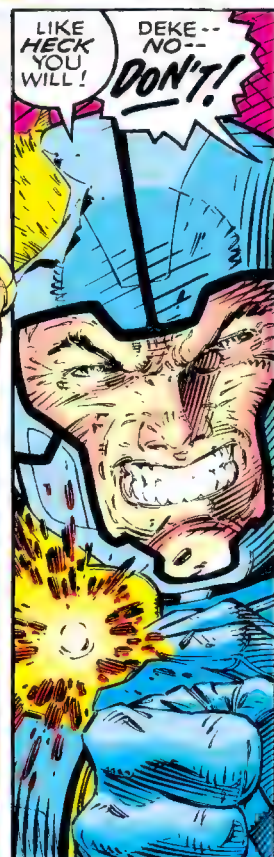
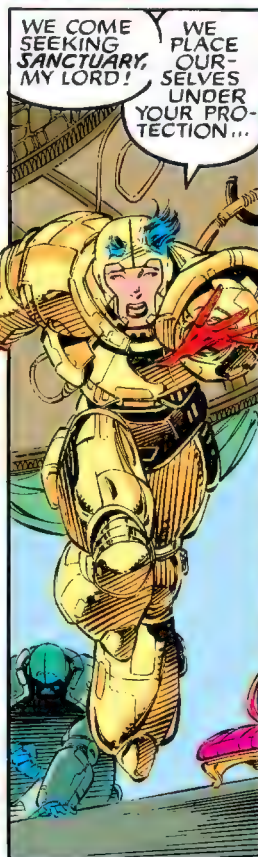
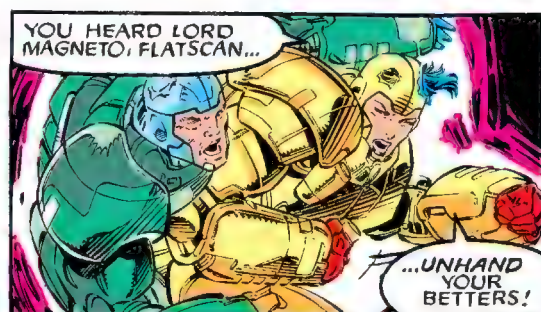
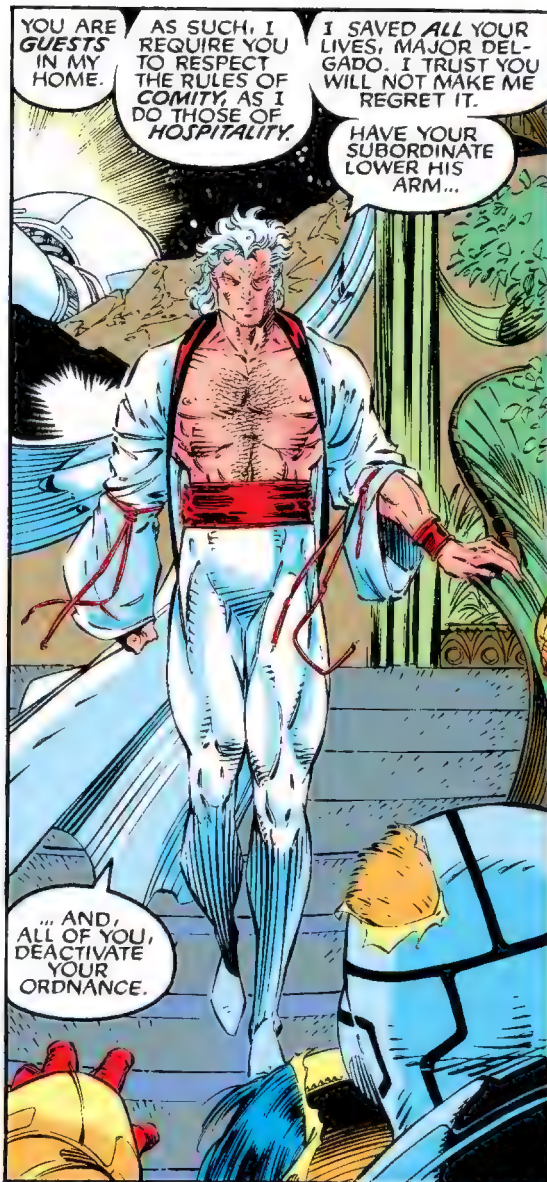
THE WEAPONS  
SYSTEMS, AS YOU  
CAN SEE, ARE  
QUITE ACTIVE.

EVERYBODY RELAX,  
EVERYBODY BEHAVE.

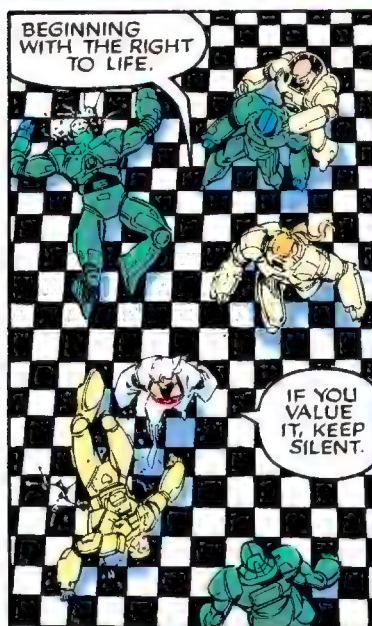
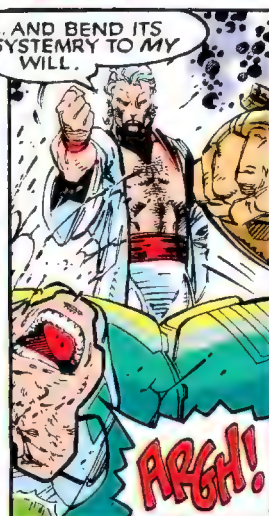
THE  
SITUATION'S  
UNDER  
CONTROL.

WHAT IS THE  
MEANING  
OF THIS?!

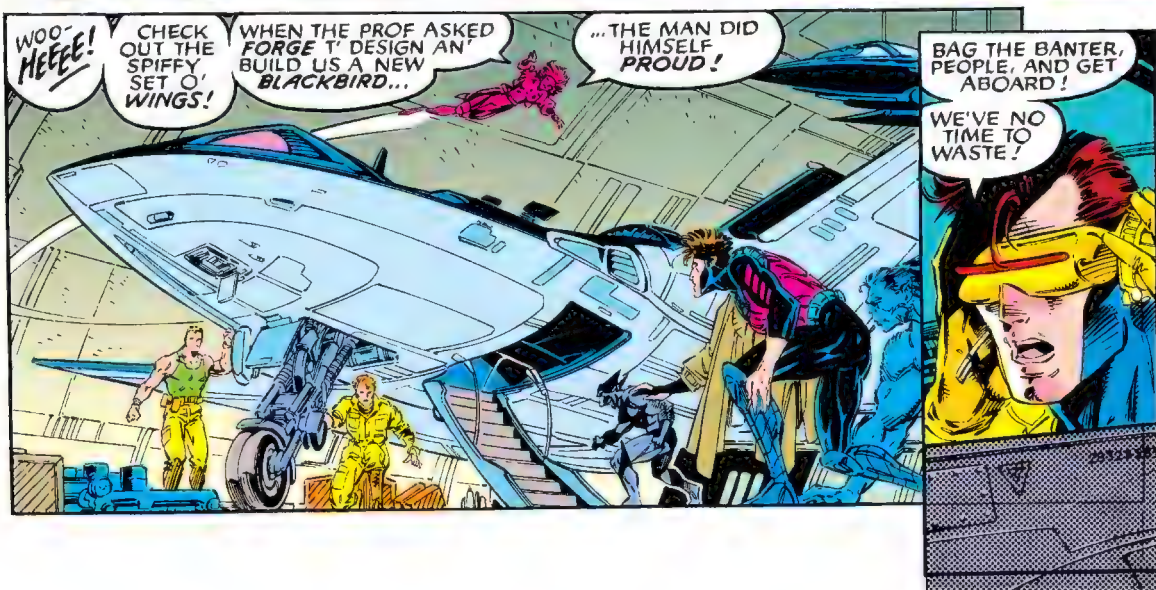
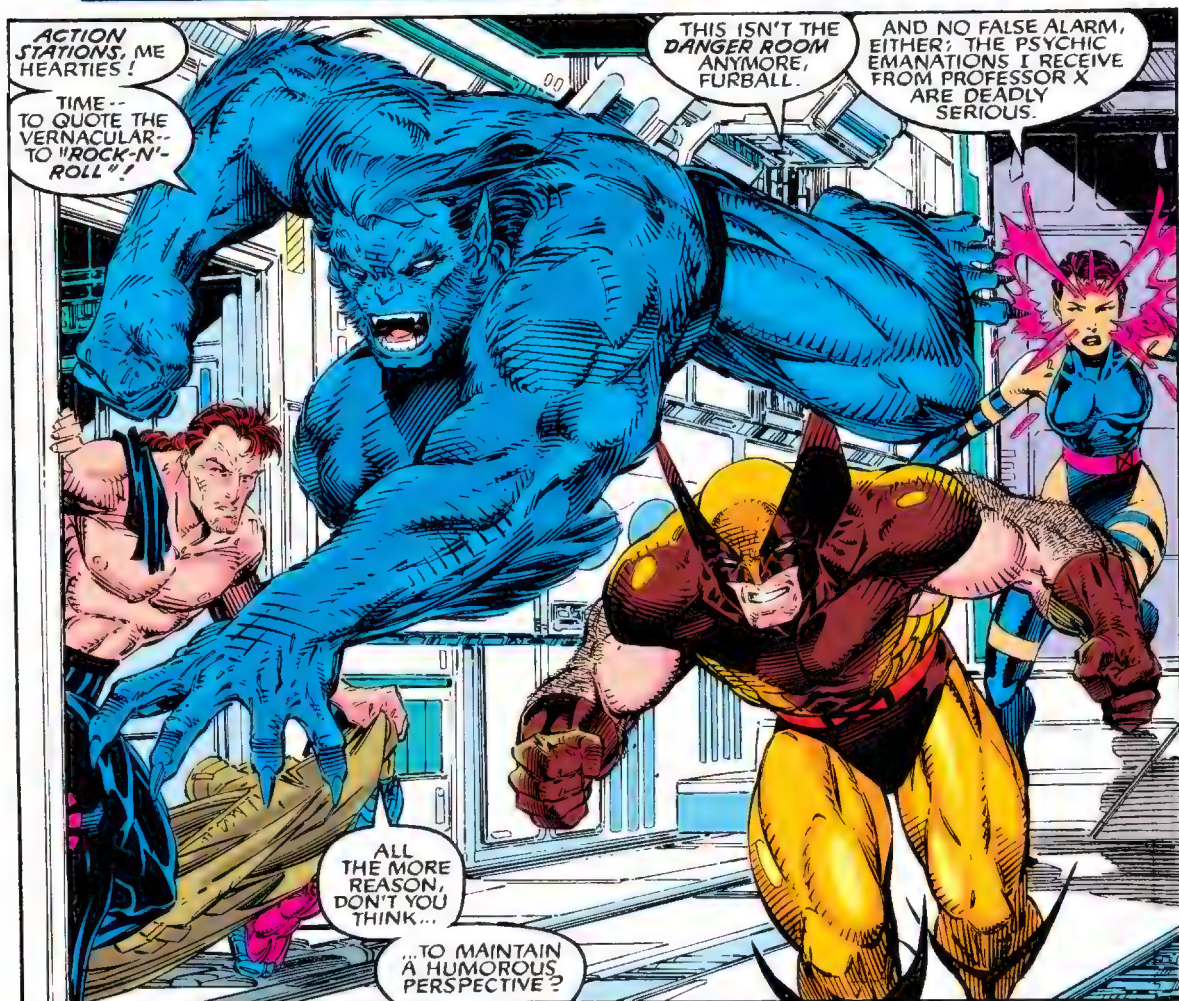
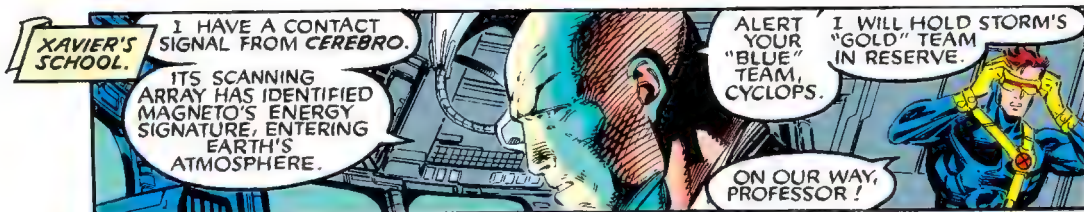














"PROF SAYS  
SOMETHING  
BIG IS  
HAPPENING  
IN MID-  
ATLANTIC!"

MOMENTS AGO,  
HE STOOD AT  
THE BOTTOM OF  
THE OCEAN...

...LITERALLY MILES BENEATH ITS  
SURFACE, IN A REALM OF AWFUL  
DARKNESS AND ABYSMAL COLD,  
AS ALIEN AND HOSTILE AS ANY  
FOREIGN PLANET.

STOOD AND  
STARED AT HIS  
HANDIWORK.

AND REMEMBERED...

...A DAY LONG PAST  
WHEN, IN HIS ARRO-  
GANCE, HE COMMANDED  
THE GREAT POWERS  
OF THE WORLD TO  
DISARM THEIR  
NUCLEAR ARSENALS.

HIS GOAL WAS NOBLE, OR  
SO HE THOUGHT, TO  
REMOVE FOREVER FROM  
ALL PEOPLE-- MUTANTS  
AND BASELINE HUMANS--  
THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR  
ANNIHILATION.

THE GOVERNMENTS  
HE CHALLENGED  
DIDN'T SEE IT  
THAT WAY.

THE SOVIET  
UNION ORDERED  
AN IMMEDIATE  
COUNTER-STRIKE...

...FROM THE  
FLEET  
BALLISTIC  
MISSILE  
SUBMARINE  
LENINGRAD.

HE DEFLECTED  
THE ATTACK...

... AND  
THEN,  
AS AN  
OBJECT  
LESSON...

...SANK THE  
VESSEL THAT  
LAUNCHED IT.



WATER PRESSURE CRUSHED THE SUB-MARINE'S HULL...

...BUT NOT SO THE LAUNCH TUBES OF CASE-HARDENED STEEL.

SOME OF THE MISSILES WERE DAMAGED, BUT A SURPRISING NUMBER HE DISCOVERS REMAIN INTACT.

BEEN A WHILE, MAGNETO.

NEVER CALLED, NEVER WROTE, AH WAS STARTIN' T' FIGURE YOU'D FORGOTTEN ALL 'BOUT ME.

THAT'S NO WAY FOR FRIENDS TO ACT.

HELLO, ROGUE.

YOU RAISE THIS WRECK OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF YOUR HEART, MAGS--

--FIGURIN' MAYBE T' GIVE THESE SAILOR BOYS A DECENT BURIAL--

--OR WHAT?

I SUNK LENINGRAD AS AN ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE, WOLVERINE.

I RESURRECT IT FOR THE SAME REASON.

WE DON'T THREATEN YOU, MAGNETO, NOBODY DOES.

AND NOW, CHILD, NOBODY WILL.

OR WHAT, YOU GONNA NUKE 'EM?

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT CONSIDERS HIMSELF A PRUDENT MAN...

...WHO PERHAPS PRAYS FOR THE BEST, BUT IS ALWAYS READY FOR THE WORST.

I AM NO DIFFERENT.





THAT, CYCLOPS, IS QUITE CLOSE ENOUGH.

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER, HOWEVER, THAT WERE I THE CONSUMMATE VILLAIN YOU DEVOUTLY BELIEVE ME TO BE...

...I WOULD DESTROY YOUR PRETTY NEW AIRCRAFT...

... INSTEAD OF SIMPLY FREEZING IT IN PLACE!



DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU.

GREAT! I STAND CORRECT-ED!

NOW HOW ABOUT ONE OF YOUR PATENTED NIFTY MOVES...

...TO HELP US OUT OF THIS MESS!



AS EVER, FEARLESS, YOUR WISH...!

STICK WITH ME, GAMBIT, WATCH AND LEARN.

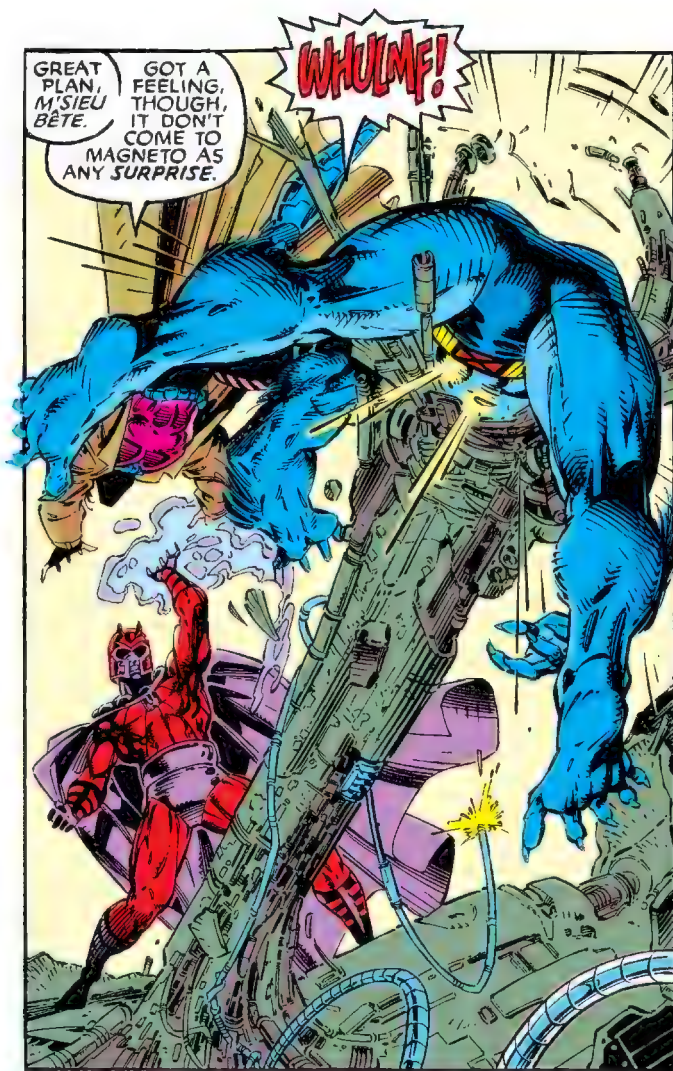
SNAPPY PATER, MON AMI, I CAN PROVIDE BY MYSELF.

WORDS ARE BUT THE ACCENTS TO ACTION--

-- WHICH, IN THIS CASE, CONSISTS OF DISTRACTING OUR FOE SUFFICIENTLY...

...FOR OUR BLACKBIRD TO SLIP FREE OF HIS MAGNETIC FORCE BUBBLE.





GREAT  
PLAN,  
M'SIEU  
BÊTE.

GOT A  
FEELING,  
THOUGH,  
IT DON'T  
COME TO  
MAGNETO AS  
ANY SURPRISE.

WHULMF!

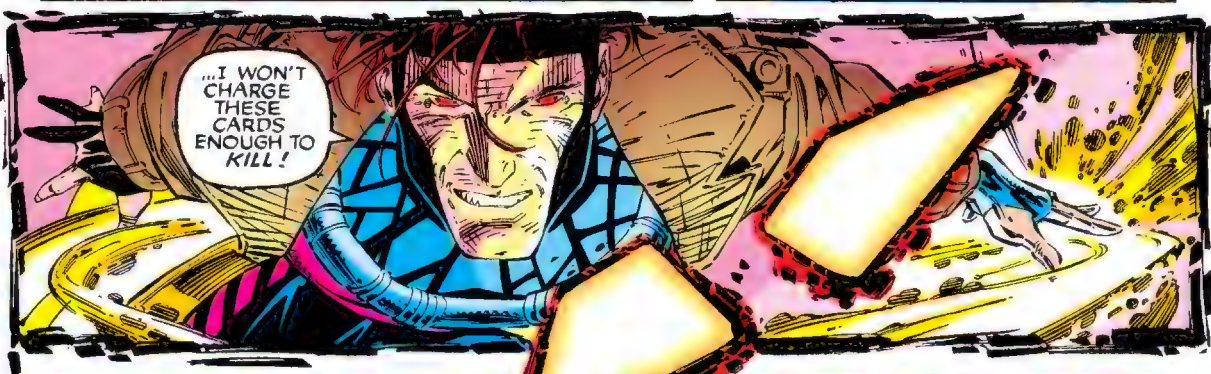
YOU STILL  
PLAYIN' NICE,  
M'SIEU...

... BY USIN' THAT  
WRECKAGE TO  
GIVE BEAST A  
TUMMY-ACHE...

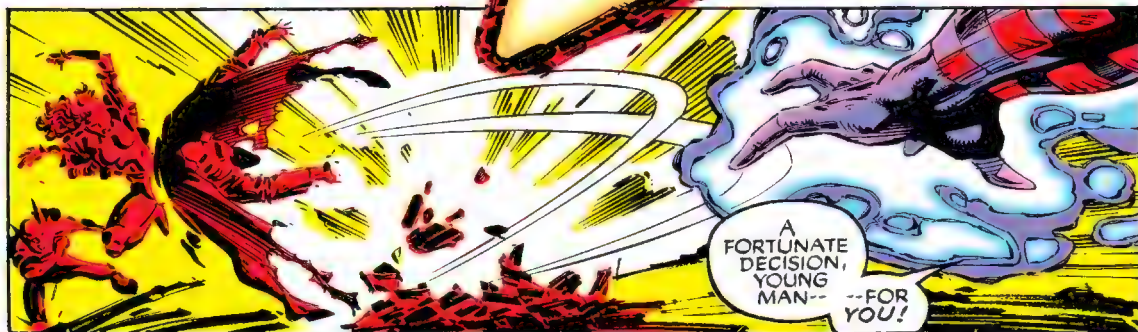
...STEAD  
OF PUNCHING  
IT  
STRAIGHT  
THROUGH  
HIM?



THAT  
BEIN'  
THE  
CASE...



...I WON'T  
CHARGE  
THESE  
CARDS  
ENOUGH TO  
KILL!



A  
FORTUNATE  
DECISION,  
YOUNG  
MAN--  
--FOR  
YOU!





**GOT HIM!**

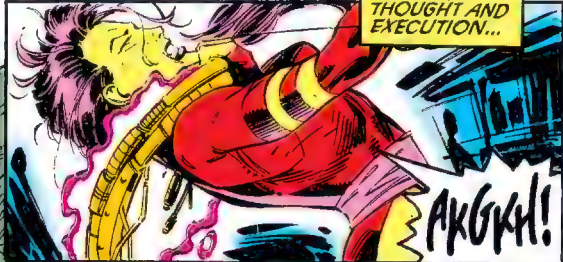
BLAST! HIS COSTUME IS A FORM OF BODY ARMOR-- THAT, COMBINED WITH HIS HELMET...

...BLUNTED THE FORCE OF MY ATTACK!

I'VE MANIFESTED MY PSYCHIC KNIFE-- THE FOCUSED TOTALITY OF MY TELEPATHIC ABILITIES--

-- ONE STRIKE SHOULD RENDER MAGNETO INSENSIBLE--!

BUT, IN THE SPLIT-SECOND BETWEEN THOUGHT AND EXECUTION...

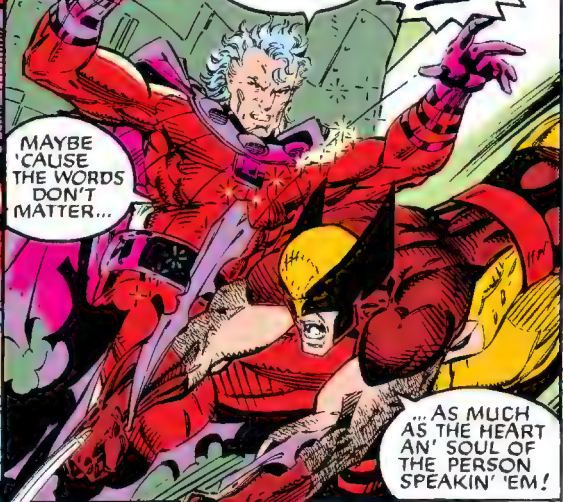


**AKGK!**

HAVE YOU X-MEN ALL GONE MAD?!

I SAID I MEANT YOU NO HARM, WHY DO YOU ASSAULT ME--

**--GOOD LORD!**



MAYBE 'CAUSE THE WORDS DON'T MATTER...

...AS MUCH AS THE HEART AN' SOUL OF THE PERSON SPEAKIN' 'EM!

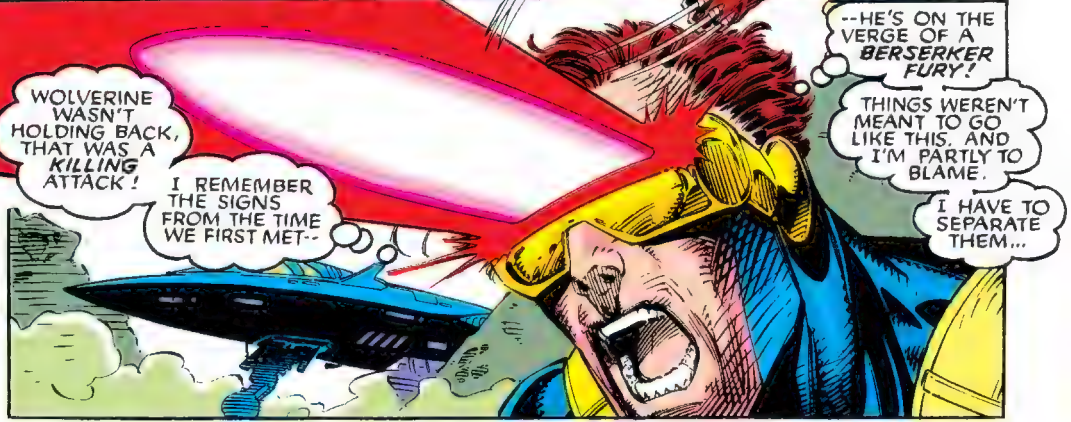
WOLVERINE WASN'T HOLDING BACK, THAT WAS A KILLING ATTACK!

I REMEMBER THE SIGNS FROM THE TIME WE FIRST MET--

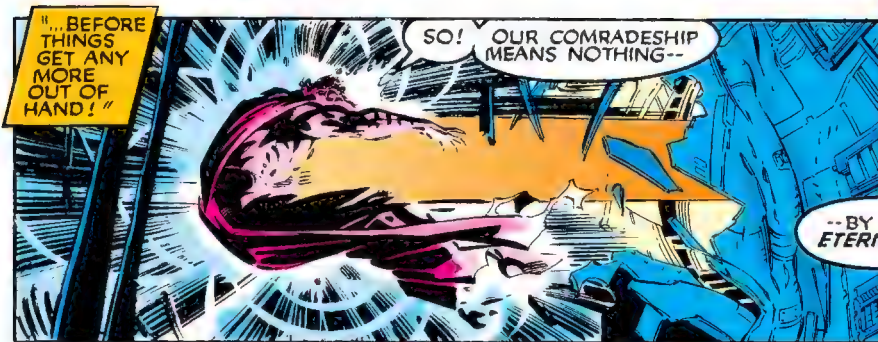
--HE'S ON THE VERGE OF A BERSERKER FURY!

THINGS WEREN'T MEANT TO GO LIKE THIS, AND I'M PARTLY TO BLAME.

I HAVE TO SEPARATE THEM...







"...BEFORE  
THINGS  
GET ANY  
MORE  
OUT OF  
HAND!"

SO! OUR COMRADESHIP  
MEANS NOTHING--

--BY THE  
ETERNAL!?!



THE SUB-  
MARINE--

--ITS  
CREW  
--!

SOME DIED IN A  
BLINDING INSTANT, AS  
THE HULL COLLAPSED  
AND THE SEA RUSHED IN  
TO CLAIM THEIR LIVES.

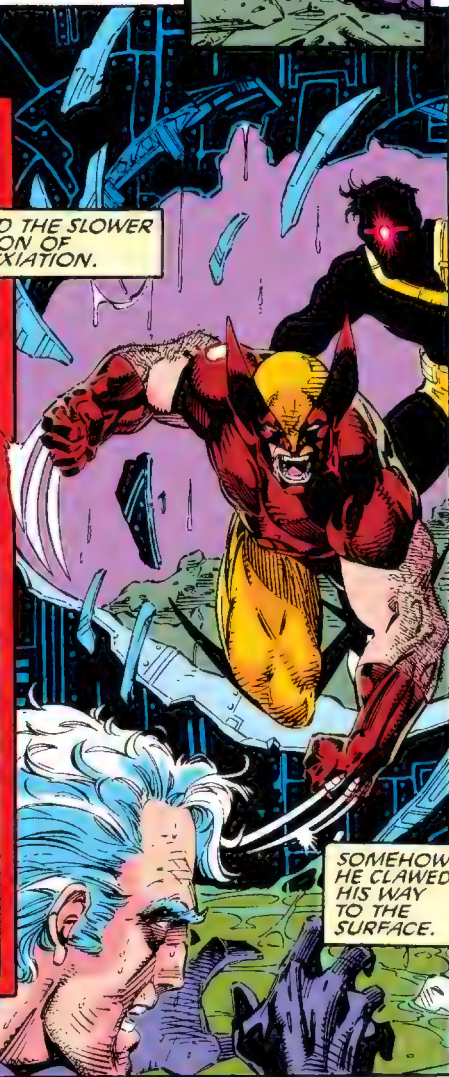
OTHERS, IN THE COMPART-  
MENTS WHICH DIDN'T  
RUPTURE...

...FACED THE SLOWER  
OBLIVION OF  
ASPHYXIATION.

ALL THIS TIME, HE'D  
THOUGHT ABOUT THEM  
IN ABSTRACT. PAWNS  
INSTEAD OF MEN.

NOW THOUGH, AT LAST, HE  
FINDS HIMSELF FACE TO  
FACE WITH THE CONSE-  
QUENCE OF HIS ACTS.

AND HE REMEMBERS  
ANOTHER TIME, OTHER  
BODIES, BONES STILL  
COATED WITH THE  
FLESH OF FAMILY AND  
FRIENDS, TOSSED INTO  
A LIME-SOAKED PIT  
AND HIM ALONG WITH  
THEM, ONLY HE WAS  
STILL ALIVE.



SOMEHOW,  
HE CLAWED  
HIS WAY  
TO THE  
SURFACE.

HIS WILL TO SURVIVE  
AS INDOMITABLE  
THEN AS NOW.

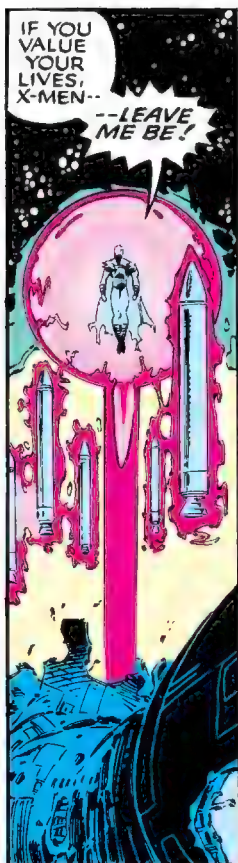
YOU  
CHOOSE TO  
SEE ME  
SOLELY AS  
THE MAN  
I WAS.

IS THAT  
THEN  
WHAT  
I AM?!

STAY  
AWAY!

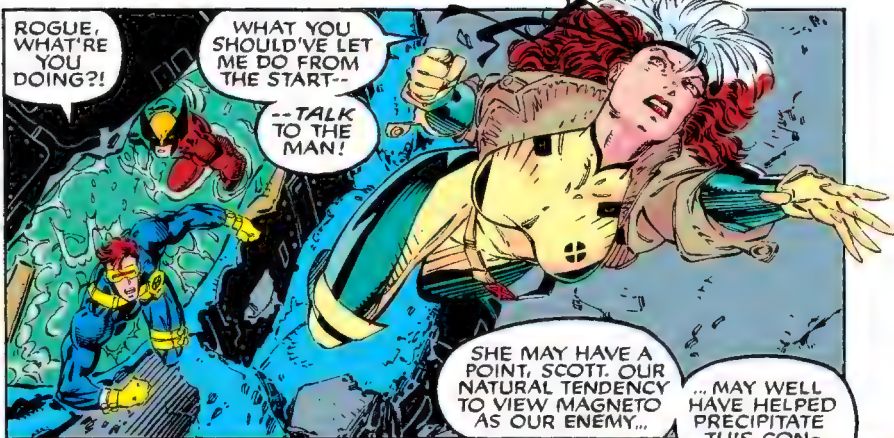






IF YOU  
VALUE  
YOUR  
LIVES,  
X-MEN--

--LEAVE  
ME BE!



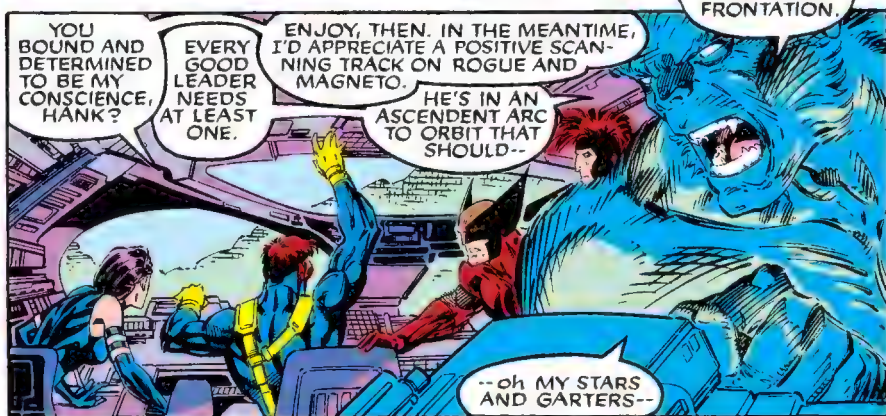
ROGUE,  
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
DOING?!

WHAT YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
LET ME DO FROM  
THE START--

--TALK  
TO THE  
MAN!

SHE MAY HAVE A  
POINT, SCOTT. OUR  
NATURAL TENDENCY  
TO VIEW MAGNETO  
AS OUR ENEMY...

...MAY WELL  
HAVE HELPED  
PRECIPITATE  
THIS CON-  
FRONTATION.



YOU  
BOUND AND  
DETERMINED  
TO BE MY  
CONSCIENCE,  
HANK?

EVERY  
GOOD  
LEADER  
NEEDS  
AT LEAST  
ONE.

ENJOY, THEN. IN THE MEANTIME,  
I'D APPRECIATE A POSITIVE SCANNING  
TRACK ON ROGUE AND  
MAGNETO.

HE'S IN AN  
ASCENDANT ARC  
TO ORBIT THAT  
SHOULD--

--oh MY STARS  
AND GARTERS--



"--TAKE HIM  
RIGHT OVER  
SOVIET  
AIRSPACE!

"AND THEIR DEFENSE  
COMMAND KNOWS IT!"

WILL YOU  
PLEASE  
WAIT UP?!

AT LEAST  
WHILE WE'RE  
LOW ENOUGH IN  
THE ATMOSPHERE  
T' HAVE A  
DECENT CON-  
VERSATION!

THERE IS  
NOTHING  
MORE TO  
BE SAID.



GET  
REAL!

WHAT, YOU NEVER  
MADE A MISTAKE IN  
YOUR LIFE? YOU  
NEVER COMMITTED  
AN ACT THAT MIGHT  
SOMEHOW BE MIS-  
INTERPRETED?

MAYBE CYKE HANDLED  
THINGS WRONG.

MAYBE SEEIN'  
YOU ABOUT TO  
HAUL OFF A  
CARGO OF NUKES  
GAVE HIM  
CAUSE!

DON'T YOU  
SEE?!  
YOU'VE GOT  
EV'RYBODY  
SPOOKED!



MAGNETO. MOSTLY FOLKS KNOW YOU AS THE WORLD-CLASS MUTIE TERRORIST. YOU'RE THE **BOOGIE-MAN** THAT'S USED TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE ABOUT US.

BY ACTIN' THE WAY YOU ARE NOW...

...YOU'RE PROVIN' 'EM RIGHT!

I TRIED TO CHANGE, I DID MY BEST TO FOLLOW XAVIER'S PATH TO A PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN 'HOMO SAPIENS' AND 'HOMO SAPIENS' SUPERIOR.

AND PAID FOR THAT FOLLY WITH THE BLOOD OF INNOCENTS.

"SO YOU FIGURE, WHAT, THERE'S NOthin' GOOD CAN COME O' THIS, AH MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP?"

YOU EVER CONSIDER, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY A LITTLE HARDER!

**ARRGH! ROGUE!**

THERE IS YOUR ANSWER, CHILD, AND MINE!

WHATEVER WE DECIDE, THE WORLD WILL NEVER ACCEPT US.

THEY MEAN ONLY OUR DESTRUCTION, AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A SPECIES!

BUT AT LEAST HERE, I CAN SAVE ONE!

MY LORD DEAR LORD NO!

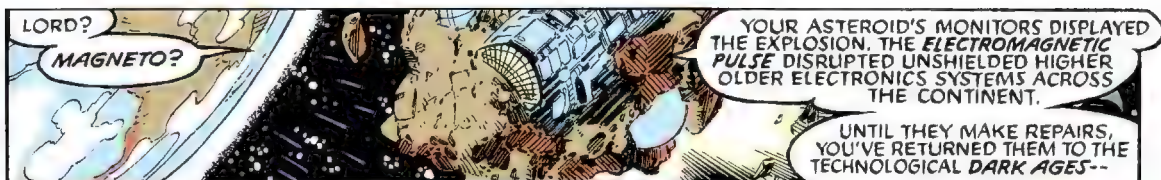
HANK, WHAT'S HAPPENING, WHAT'S THAT FLASH?

AN UPPER-ATMOSPHERE NUCLEAR DETONATION, AT LEAST A MEGATON IN YIELD.

MAGNETO'S FIRED ONE OF THE MISSILES.

BUT-- WHAT ABOUT ROGUE?!!





LORD?

MAGNETO?

YOUR ASTEROID'S MONITORS DISPLAYED THE EXPLOSION. THE **ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE** DISRUPTED UNSHIELDED HIGHER OLDER ELECTRONICS SYSTEMS ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

UNTIL THEY MAKE REPAIRS, YOU'VE RETURNED THEM TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL DARK AGES--



--LORD?!

MAGNETO-- YOU'RE HURT!



WOLVERINE'S CLAWS.

THAT DEVIL!

I THOUGHT MY ARMOR PROOF AGAINST ANY ASSAULT. ON THE OTHER HAND, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IT PREVENTED THE X-MAN'S CLAWS FROM CUTTING DEEPER.

THERE WAS NO HESITATION IN HIM. NO... MERCY.

HAD I NOT WITHDRAWN FROM THE FIELD OF COMBAT, HE WOULD NOT HAVE STOPPED UNTIL ONE OF US WAS SLAIN.

FROM CYCLOPS, I EXPECTED THAT. HE HAS NEVER TRUSTED ME, AND NEVER WILL.

BUT WOLVERINE...

I HAVE FOUGHT BY HIS SIDE. FOR THE BRIEF TIME I WORKED WITH THE X-MEN, HE ACCEPTED ME WHOLEHEARTEDLY. IF NOT AS A FRIEND, THEN AT LEAST AS A COMRADE-IN-ARMS.



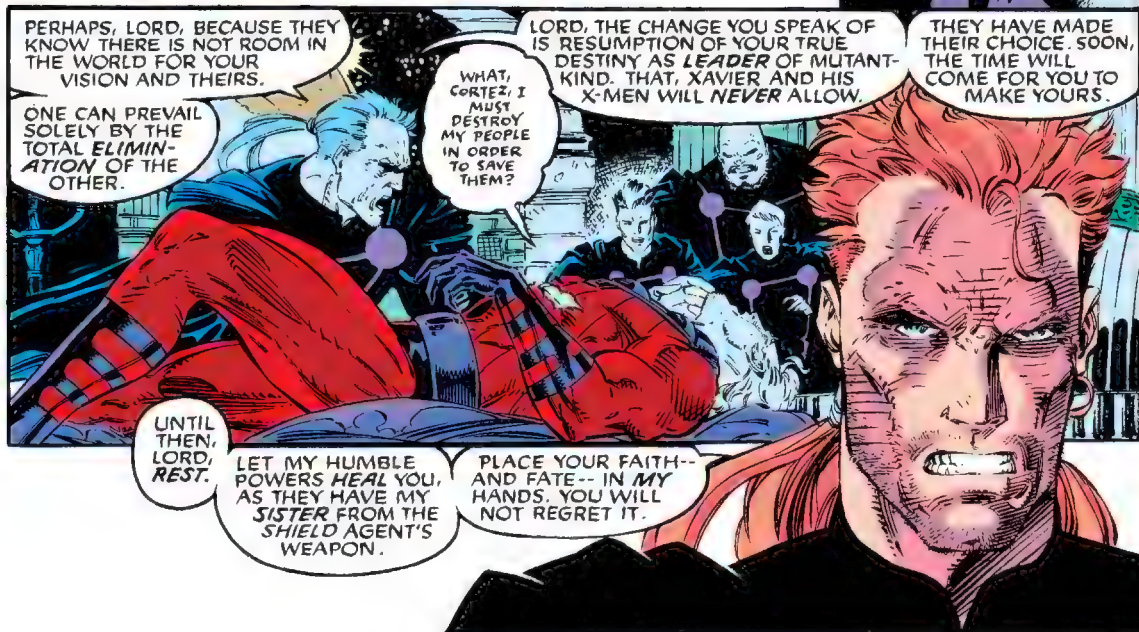
WHY THEN HAS HE TURNED ON ME?

WHAT HAS CHANGED?!

WHY MUST **BLOOD** ALWAYS COME BETWEEN ME AND OTHERS?



KOFF KAFF  
**GAGK**  
KOFF KAFF



PERHAPS, LORD, BECAUSE THEY KNOW THERE IS NOT ROOM IN THE WORLD FOR YOUR VISION AND THEIRS.

ONE CAN PREVAIL SOLELY BY THE TOTAL **ELIMINATION** OF THE OTHER.

LORD, THE CHANGE YOU SPEAK OF IS RESUMPTION OF YOUR TRUE DESTINY AS **LEADER** OF MUTANT-KIND. THAT, XAVIER AND HIS X-MEN WILL **NEVER** ALLOW.

THEY HAVE MADE THEIR CHOICE. SOON, THE TIME WILL COME FOR YOU TO MAKE YOURS.

WHAT, CORTÉZ, I MUST DESTROY MY PEOPLE IN ORDER TO SAVE THEM?

UNTIL THEN, LORD, REST.

LET MY HUMBLE POWERS HEAL YOU, AS THEY HAVE MY **SISTER** FROM THE SHIELD AGENT'S WEAPON.

PLACE YOUR FAITH-- AND FATE-- IN MY HANDS. YOU WILL NOT REGRET IT.



THE TERRESTRIAL STRATOSPHERE...

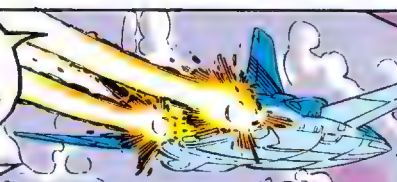
OUR ON-BOARD SENSORS ARE WORKING PERFECTLY, SCOTT. I'M SCANNING TO THE LIMIT OF THEIR RANGE. THERE'S NO SIGN OF ROGUE.

THAT ISN'T HELPFUL, HANK.

I'M AFRAID, CYCLOPS, MY NEWS ISN'T MUCH BETTER.

I HAD A SENSE OF HER CONSCIOUSNESS-- THERE WAS SHOCK AND PAIN, SHE'D JUST BEEN STRUCK...

BY MAGNETO?



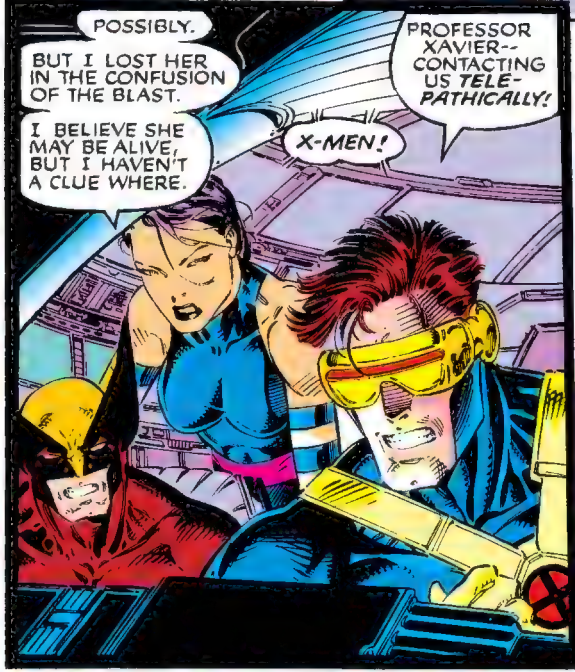
POSSIBLY.

BUT I LOST HER IN THE CONFUSION OF THE BLAST.

I BELIEVE SHE MAY BE ALIVE, BUT I HAVEN'T A CLUE WHERE.

X-MEN!


PROFESSOR XAVIER-- CONTACTING US TELEPATHICALLY!



BREAK OFF YOUR SEARCH. I HAVE A LOCATION ON ROGUE. SHE IS ALIVE AND ESSENTIALLY WELL.

YOU PIN-POINTED HER WITH CEREBRO, SIR?

ACTUALLY, CYCLOPS, I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL INFORMING ME OF HER WHEREABOUTS...



...IN THE CITY OF HAMMER BAY...

...CAPITAL OF THE ISLAND NATION OF GENOSHA.

BOOM!



WHOA!

OH! OH! OW!

SORRY ABOUT THE SMELL, X-MAN. WE HAD TO USE A WHIFF OF AMMONIA TO WAKE YOU.

YOU'RE ANDERSON.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE, YES. YOU REMEMBER ME.

THIS A PRISON HOSPITAL?

THE ORDINARY VARIETY. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, GENOSHA REALLY IS A FREE COUNTRY.



EVEN FOR MUTANTS?

WE NEED YOU, ROGUE. EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HURT.

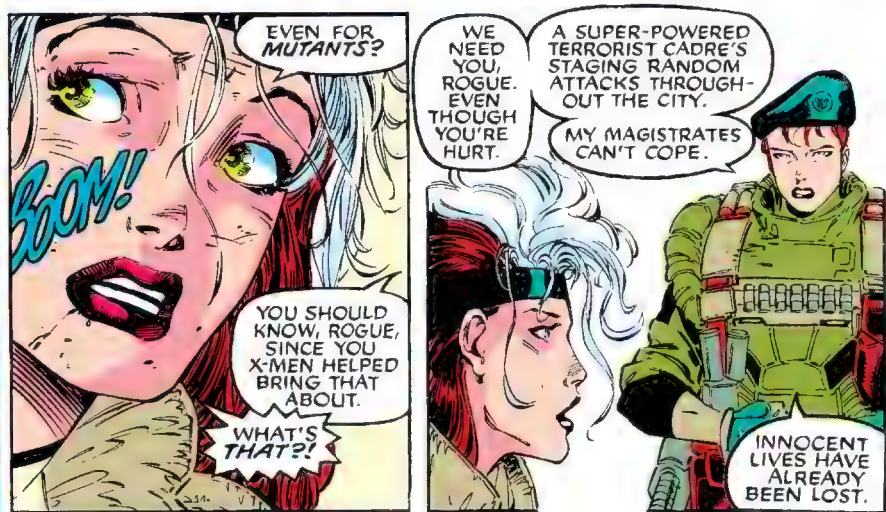
A SUPER-POWERED TERRORIST CADRE'S STAGING RANDOM ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

MY MAGISTRATES CAN'T COPE.

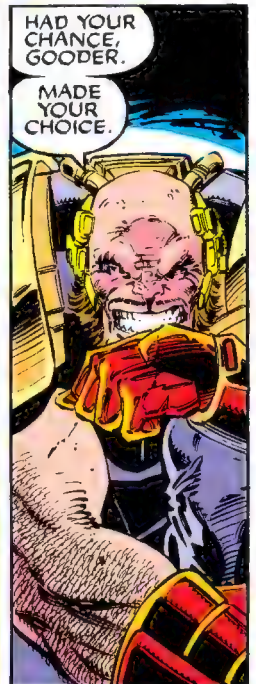
YOU SHOULD KNOW, ROGUE, SINCE YOU X-MEN HELPED BRING THAT ABOUT.

WHAT'S THAT?!

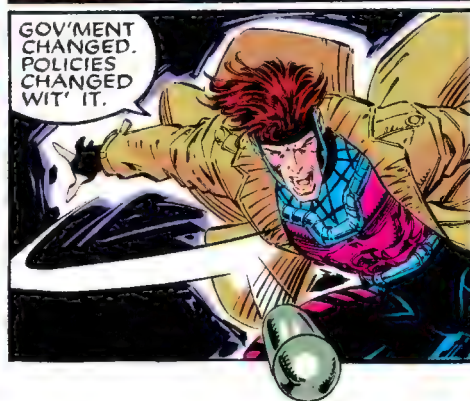
INNOCENT LIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN LOST.















B'SIDES, WAY WE HEAR YOU TALKIN' T' ROGUE...

...DON'T SOUND LIKE YOU MUCH BETTER.

WE STAND FOR THE ONLY CAUSE WHICH GIVES OUR PEOPLE A DECENT HOPE OF SURVIVAL, X-MAN--

-- THAT OF MUTANT SUPREMACY!

WE ARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUMANITY, AND WE WILL NOT BE CHEATED OF OUR RIGHTFUL INHERITANCE!

I'VE ALTERED YOUR MOLECULAR STRUCTURE, DELGADO...

...TO MAKE IT VIRTUALLY AS DENSE AS ADAMANTIUM.

FOR WHAT YOU LOSE IN SPEED AND AGILITY, YOU'LL MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR IN STRENGTH.



"DELGADO"? THERE WAS A MAJOR HARRY DELGADO COMMANDING THE SHIELD PURSUIT FORCE THAT WAS CAPTURED BY MAGNETO.

COINCIDENCE?

DIFFERENT GUY, SAME NAME.

OR MAYBE THE MAJOR WAS A SLEEPER, WORKIN' WITH THE CLOWNS HE WAS SUPPOSEDLY CHASIN'?

OR MAYBE HE SWITCHED SIDES.

OR MAYBE SOMEBODY MADE HIM.

HOWEVER THE MAN CAME HERE, BEAST, HE MEANS BUSINESS.

WE CAN FIGURE OUT THE BACK-STORY AFTER WE TAKE HIM DOWN.





I HAVE THE FLYER!

I COULD MORE EASILY DO THIS TELEPATHICALLY, FROM A DISTANCE.

BUT I LIKE THE THRILL OF PHYSICAL COMBAT.

"LIKE IT"-- I CRAVE IT. HOW DOES WOLVERINE CALL IT-- AM I AN "ACTION JUNKIE"?

SOMETHING TO WATCH OUT FOR.

IT'S A TEMPTATION A FOE COULD LEARN TO USE AGAINST ME.

POOR DEAR. I CLOUDED HIS MIND JUST ENOUGH...

...TO MAKE HIM THINK HE WAS RACING FOR OPEN SKY.

THE IMPACT ISN'T FATAL, BUT AFTER ALL THE HARM THESE WRETCHES HAVE ALREADY CAUSED, I DEARLY HOPE IT HURTS.

I CAN'T PLACE THE FACE, BUT YOUR SCENT'S AWFULLY FAMILIAR.

GIVEN THE CHEAP CIGARS YOU FAVOR, MISANTHROPE...

...I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN SMELL ANYTHING AT ALL.

WOLVERINE! HE'S THE LEADER, WE NEED HIM ALIVE!

THAT'S A MATTER OF OPINION.

AN' AT THE MOMENT, MINE'S AS NEGATIVE AS IT GETS.

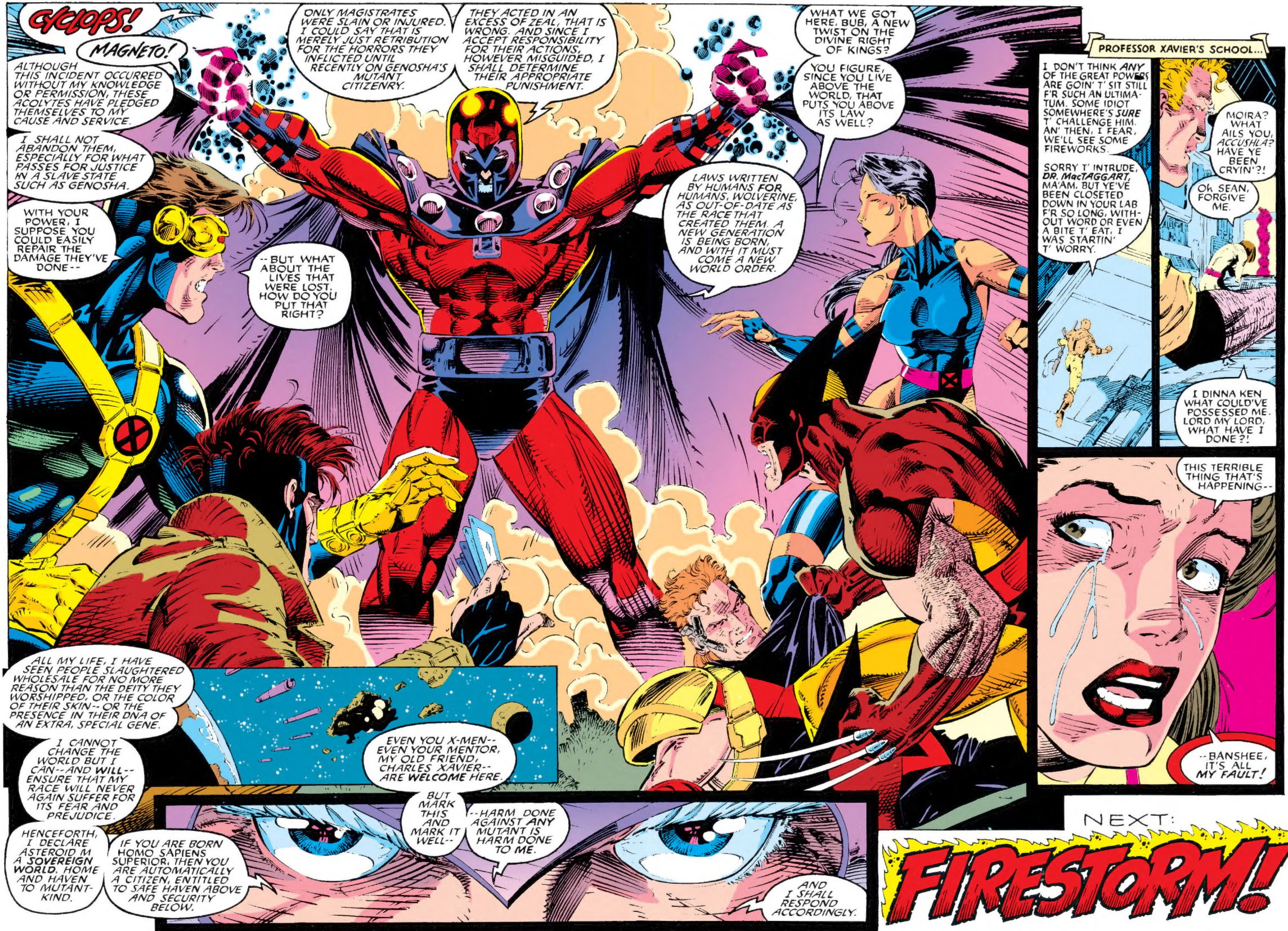
UNLESS YOU CAN GIVE ME A REASON TO CHANGE MY MIND.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR SUCH MELO-DRAMA, X-MAN.

I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.

INDEED, I AND MINE ARE AS PROUD OF OUR AFFILIATION AS YOU OF YOURS.





**Cyclops!**

**MAGNETO!**

ALTHOUGH THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE OR PERMISSION, THESE ACOLYTES HAVE PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO MY CAUSE AND SERVICE.

I SHALL NOT ABANDON THEM, ESPECIALLY FOR WHAT PASSES FOR JUSTICE IN A SLAVE STATE SUCH AS GENOSHA.

WITH YOUR POWER, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD EASILY REPAIR THE DAMAGE THEY'VE DONE--

ONLY MAGISTRATES WERE SLAIN OR INJURED. I COULD SAY THAT IS MERELY JUST RETRIBUTION FOR THE HORRORS THEY INFLECTED UNTIL RECENTLY ON GENOSHA'S MUTANT CITIZENRY.

THEY ACTED IN AN EXCESS OF ZEAL, THAT IS WRONG. AND SINCE I ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS, HOWEVER MISGUIDED, I SHALL DETERMINE THEIR APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT.

WHAT WE GOT HERE, BUB, A NEW TWIST ON THE DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS?

YOU FIGURE, SINCE YOU LIVE ABOVE THE WORLD, THAT PUTS YOU ABOVE ITS LAW AS WELL?

LAWS WRITTEN BY HUMANS FOR HUMANS, WOLVERINE, AS OUT-OF-DATE AS THE RACE THAT CREATED THEM. A NEW GENERATION IS BEING BORN, AND WITH IT MUST COME A NEW WORLD ORDER.

--BUT WHAT ABOUT THE LIVES THAT WERE LOST, HOW DO YOU PUT THAT RIGHT?

ALL MY LIFE, I HAVE SEEN PEOPLE SLAUGHTERED WHOLESAL FOR NO MORE REASON THAN THE DEITY THEY WORSHIPPED, OR THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN--OR THE PRESENCE IN THEIR DNA OF AN EXTRA, SPECIAL GENE.

I CANNOT CHANGE THE WORLD BUT I CAN--AND WILL--ENSURE THAT MY RACE WILL NEVER AGAIN SUFFER FOR ITS FEAR AND PREJUDICE.

HENCEFORTH, I DECLARE ASTEROID M A SOVEREIGN WORLD. HOME AND HAVEN TO MUTANT-KIND.

IF YOU ARE BORN HOMO SAPIENS SUPERIOR, THEN YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY A CITIZEN, ENTITLED TO SAFE HAVEN ABOVE AND SECURITY BELOW.

EVEN YOU X-MEN--EVEN YOUR MENTOR, MY OLD FRIEND, CHARLES XAVIER--ARE WELCOME HERE

BUT MARK THIS AND MARK IT WELL--

--HARM DONE AGAINST ANY MUTANT IS HARM DONE TO ME.

AND I SHALL RESPOND ACCORDINGLY.

PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL...

I DON'T THINK ANY OF THE GREAT POWERS ARE GOIN' T' SIT STILL F'R SUCH AN ULTIMATUM. SOME IDIOT SOMEWHERE'S SURE T' CHALLENGE HIM. AN' THEN, I FEAR, WE'LL SEE SOME FIREWORKS.

SORRY T' INTRUDE, DR. MacTAGGART, NA'AM. BUT YE'VE BEEN CLOSETED DOWN IN YOUR LAB F'R SO LONG, WITH-OUT WORD OR EVEN A BITE T' EAT. I WAS STARTIN' T' WORRY.

MOIRA? WHAT AILS YOU, ACCUSHLA? HAVE YE BEEN CRYIN'?!?

OK SEAN, FORGIVE ME.

I DINNA KEN WHAT COULD'VE POSSESSED ME. LORD MY LORD, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

THIS TERRIBLE THING THAT'S HAPPENING--

--BANSHEE, IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

NEXT:

**FIRESTORM!**





LEE  
©  
Williams

**THINGS**  
TO  
**COME**





MINUTEMEN

Bluntman